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Issue 87

Dec/Jan '19

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Hi and welcome to the December/January issue of Slap Magazine. This edition marks the completion of our 8th year in publication; simply unbelievable - where the time has gone?!

A massive thank you, as always, to all the good folk who give up their precious spare time to help with Slap each month. Whether it's contributing, editing, photography or delivering magazines around the region, without you this publication would be nothing.

I have to add, by the way, that we rely on advertising to help produce Slap each month and all too often this year we have failed to break even on various issues, including this one. Are the years of austerity finally catching up with us? Is it the uncertainty over our future as a nation after Brexit? Either way, much head scratching is required during the festive break if we are to go into the new year with confidence.

On a more positive note, the end of January marks 'Independent Venue Week' and in this issue we bring you news of recent additions to the venue circuit. Firstly we report on Paradiddles' first year anniversary and its continued success. We also feature Annie's Burger Shack in Worcester, which promises to be a welcome addition to the live scene. We also feature 'Into the Valley' at the Trico stadium in Redditch, another much needed outlet for live music in the area.

Have a great festive break and we'll see you on the other side...

Scroog'Ed



Our front cover image is from last years Bromsgrove Festival of Light courtesy of Artrix.



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Whatever floats your Boat Earl

There remains a whiff of mystery about the sinking of the river Severn passenger boat/venue **The Earl** which was still half-submerged in Diglis Dock as we went to press. Since last year The Earl has hosted popular music cruises featuring many local musicians and was a venue for this year's **Worcester Music Festival**.

STOP PRESS: As we go to press, we've heard the news that **The Earl** has been successfully raised. We wish the owner every success in their restoration efforts. We look forward to The Earl sailing again, bringing us notes on the boat...

Artrix do the Light Fantastic

Artrix in Bromsgrove is once again looking for as many locals as possible to get involved in this year's **Festival Of Light** procession, holding lantern-making workshops and appealing for performers to take part in the carnival. The event takes place on Sunday 9 December - more info 01527-577330

Chloe Poetry Advisory

As recognition that it's now one of the premier spoken word events in the country **Ledbury Poetry Festival** will now play a part in selecting the next **UK Poet Laureate**, with artistic director **Chloe Garner** being selected to be on the advisory panel to choose the next candidate for the historic post. A bit appropriate really as one of the longest serving Poets Laureate was Ledbury's own **John Masefield** who held the position for 37 years. It's nowadays held for 10 years and the incumbent **Carol Ann Duffy** is due to retire in 2019 - wonder if our own **Suz Winspear** will throw her hat into the ring?

Best refund back to Da Bank

Sadly delays still continue with **Bestival/Camp Bestival** providing refunds for the cancelled final day of this year's event in Dorset with customers being advised to contact their banks for a chargeback. Meanwhile the company that took over the festivals assets and brand (but not its liabilities) has itself been taken over by founders **Josie** and **Rob Da Bank** who've said that Bestival is '1000% happening' next year...

A Tragic Mystery

Music fans across the region were left shocked and saddened by the recent death of Kidderminster based **Steve Downing**.

A regular attendee at venues across the Midlands and huge supporter of the grass roots scene, Steve went missing in Worcester after going to a gig at The Imperial Tavern on Sunday 28th October. Tragically, his body was recovered from the River Severn three days later.

He was last sighted on CCTV exiting Worcester Shrub Hill station at around 8.15pm, but what happened after that remains a mystery. Investigating officers would like to hear from people who may have seen him on the evening.

Anyone with information should contact West Mercia Police on 101 quoting 380s of 31 October 2018, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Creative Destiny

The new management team at **Worcester Arts Workshop** say they are optimistic for the future of the venue as a '*creative destination for the city*' with a programme of transformation to expand the programme of events on offer as well as continuing with the popular range of creative courses. The much-missed Cafe Bliss will now become '**The Third Space**' cafe/bar with a performance area. There'll also be a focus on emerging artists, live music and events, learning and training, outreach to marginalised groups and developing partnerships with other arts and educational organisations.

Happy Headlines

Lakefest returns for its eighth year at **Eastnor Deer Park** from 8-11 August 2019 and have already confirmed **Happy Mondays** as the Saturday night headliners. Other booked acts include **Maxi Jazz** from **Faithless**, **The Bluetones** and of course those **Roving Crows** (!) - more at lakefest.co.uk

Soeur Surge Forward

It's great times for ex-Worcester-now-Bristol-based **Soeur** who've capped off an amazing past year or so with an appearance on Steve Lamacq's stage at the monster BBC Introducing Live event in London - together with airplays from Annie Mac on Radio 1 and Tom Robinson on 6 Music - all this following last year's bash at Reading/Leeds!

Charity Applications Open For Worcester Music Festival

Applications have now opened for **Worcester Music Festival's** chosen charity of 2019.

Every year, the festival choses to support a different local charity, raising money over the course of the musical weekend, which, in 2019, will take place across the 13th-15th September in Worcester's vibrant city centre. Applications must be in for Friday 25th January and the form can be found via the Worcester Music Festival's website.

During 2018's event, the three-day celebration of music and art raised an astonishing £5307.15 for **Worcestershire Association of Carers**. The total was a record breaker for the festival and they hope to raise even more in 2019.

Nikki Boraston, Festival Director, commented; "*Last year, the festival chose Worcestershire Association of Carers as our charity and it really was a great cause. So many people don't realise they are a carer, or even know one, and being able to support the charities plight to provide some respite and support for carers was an honour.*"

"*Now, we're focusing on next year. After such a phenomenal festival in September, we want to make 2019's even better, and we need an important cause to support as we do it!*"

To apply to be next year's chosen charity, please visit: <http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/about-the-festival/charity-application-form/>

Yuletide greetings!

Andy O'Hare

Not long ago a BBC presenter was on a school visit talking about his job when a small child casually asked 'What's radio?' That little question has contributed to a seismic change within the Beeb who've realised that the under-30 market is a major difficulty for music listeners who prefer instant on-demand streaming services - and the age of youngsters listening to their transistor radios under the bedclothes is long gone...

Hence the newly-launched BBC Sounds app to replace the iPlayer Radio which failed to reach younger audiences - aiming to provide a personalised listening service with suggestions and recommendations. It's going to be a challenge to reach more junior listeners while still appealing to the more mature AM/FM-aware audiences - but we'll keep you posted how it goes! Much credit once again to local music stalwart and eternal plugger **Andrew Marston** for securing an extra Sunday evening spot on BBC Radio H&W for the Introducing show - featuring unsigned, undiscovered and under-the-radar talent - in all fairness probably where it should have been in the first place rather than Saturday nights across the UK, when every gigger and gig-goer is errummm probably at a gig and has to catch up next day via the iPlayer (woops BBC Sounds).

Yes I know I say it every bloody year but it really has been an awesome past twelve months or so for our wonderful local music scene! We've had fabulous monthly roadshows at the amazing **Worley's** in Stourport, **Artrix** in Bromsgrove, #8 in Pershore (we've been waiting ages for that!), darkest Kington in deepest Herefordshire - plus of course on the main BBC stage at the world-famous **Hay Festival** - that's a keeper!

But what a great summer touring and doing the local festivals! We kicked off at wonderful **Wychwood** with sets from **Soeur**, **Vonhorn** and **The Americas** - followed by **Hopfest** in Bewdley, **Lakefest** (where **Lower Loveday** delivered the most explosive set I've seen in ages!) and of course **Worcester Music Festival** - glad once again to showcase a selection of my own personal faves as well! Sadly we missed out on **Nozstock** due to an 'administrative cock-up' - hopefully next year...

So many local acts doing great things and we think heading for the heights in the near future are **Soeur** (no-brainer!), **V2A**, **The Americas** and **Stone Mountain Sinners** - but touch wood Bewdley's own **Arcadia Roots** will secure a premier spot at next year's post-fallow year Glasto and proceed to world-wide acclaim!

As always (!) I'm totally sure that it's great times ahead for our fabulous live, local and original music scene! Hope to meet up with you and have a chat about your likes, and occasional dislikes at a gig very soon - but in the meantime please do have an extremely pleasant Midwinter Public Holiday and of course do keep supporting our very wonderful venues, promoters and totally awesome artists!!

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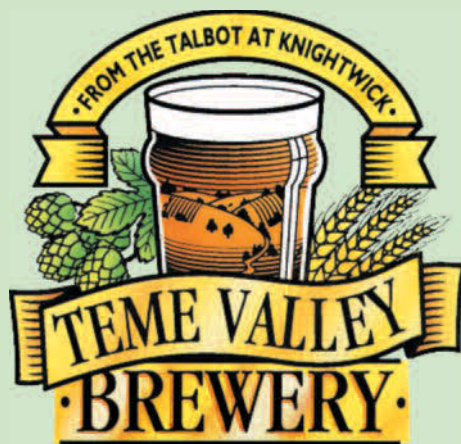
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Clik Clik starts the month of December down the ol' alley for **Gin Lane**, as part of the **Worcester Victorian Fayre**. This is an immersive installation celebrating Victorian creativity whilst bringing the Fayre cheekily into disrepute! Featuring playful interactions from **Worcester Theatre Makers** and their cheeky urchins, sing-a-longs with **Play it Again Dan**, side-show shenanigans with **Lee's Fleas**, and captivating Music Hall moves from **'The Penny Girls'** (below). Plus some dodgy characters to keep you on your toes!



Then I'm off to the **Boomtown Festival** crew party, pulling out an old sideshow act, *'The Wild West Wall of Shame'* to lure the party-goers faces into holes and frame them forever!



If you would like to book some entertainment Clik Clik style, during 2019 then please get in touch with me on:
kate@clikclikcollective.com

Circus Circus

Work by a prominent British glassmaker features in an exhibition in the Cotswolds, which runs until Jan 14th, 2019.

Chair of the Contemporary Glass Society, **Sue Purser Hope** is exhibiting a number of framed glass pictures from her **"Circus Circus!"** series in the Creative Coverage Winter Exhibition at **Chipping Norton Theatre Gallery**.

"I dreamt of running away to the circus when I was a little girl and it has always had a great fascination for me," she reveals. "I love the combination of magic and muscle, fantasy and sheer hard work that creates an environment of escapism and wonder. Going to the circus is still a magical experience for me and these pieces of art glass are a celebration of this world of wonder."

For more info: www.purserhope.co.uk



Bell Tower Lights, Evesham

A new exciting permanent creative lighting trail has come to Evesham town centre with the launch of the new war memorial lights on Armistice Day to a big crowd. On 15th Dec the next phase of the lighting trail launches with the turning on of the new Bell Tower lights. There's a drop in event from 5.30pm-7.30pm where you can see the range of lights and colours available, plus family activities such as making a lantern, drop in projection workshop and shadow puppetry. It's an opportunity to go and see the new **War Memorial** lights at the same time.

The project has been funded by **Wychavon District Council Planning contributions, Evesham Town Council, The Bell Tower Appeal** and **Worcestershire County Council**. Phase 2 includes lighting the arch of the Abbey remains, lighting and projecting on to All Saints and St Lawrence's church.



Jenny Davis Arts Development Officer says, *"We were bowled away by the number of people that came down to support the launch of the war memorial lights and moved by the service and performances by Broadway school, Deborah Rose and Martin Riley. The lights look amazing and make a huge difference to the park. We are equally excited to launch the Bell Tower lights and to share our vision with the community. The activities we have planned are fun so get your creative hat on!"*

Art & Beer

Rachel Kay Hall, well known from the **Worcestershire Open Studios** weekends, has her own show of paintings on the weekend of 15th and 16th December, 11am-5pm. Rachel is a professional watercolour artist and will be exhibiting originals, prints and cards - a great purchasing opportunity just before Christmas!

Rachel has again teamed up with the **Worcester Brewing Company** and the event will be at the Arches, 49 Cherry Tree Walk in Worcester, and beer will be on sale.

rachelkayhall.co.uk



Site Open Studios

Artists are getting ready for a special **Christmas Open Studios** weekend where you'll find contemporary hand-crafted unique presents for the upcoming festive season, on Sat 8th & Sun 9th December in and around Stroud. Featuring artists from across the district, visitors will be spoilt for choice by the variety of work for sale, with a collection of work that ranges from sculpture, paintings, textiles, prints, and many more.



Open Studios are a great way to meet artists, find out more about the ideas behind their work and the techniques they use, and you can buy art works directly from artists. **Stroud Valley Art-space (SVA)** has been hosting Open Studios since 1997, starting out with a handful of artists and has now expanded into one of the best rurally based Open Studio events in the UK.

For information on the artists, disability access, and parking, please visit : www.sitefestival.org.uk

Free workshops in Hereford

Between 3rd – 7th Dec, National Lottery players can attend a free workshop at **Hereford Courtyard** as a big thank you to lottery players, giving them a flavour of what their money supports. Workshops include **Find Your Feet** and **Garrick Singers** on 3rd, **Playing Together** on 4th, **Life Drawing** on 6th and **Chance to Dance** and **Dancing Tots** on 7th.

Free with a National Lottery Ticket. For more info- 01432 340555 or www.courtyard.org.uk/thankstoyou

Perfect Circle Youth Theatre present...

Mischievous fairies, complicated love affairs, and a band of enthusiastic actors as this brilliant Malvern based youth theatre group bring you Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. A cast of 35 local young people bring their unique vision to this incredible comedy. Performed in traverse at **St Peter's Church**, Cowleigh Road, Malvern, their version of the play features magic spells, skateboards, camping, and death metal. Don't miss it. The Church has a bar, and the performance lasts approx. 1 hour without an interval.



Fri 7th & Sat 8th Dec at 7pm. Tickets £5 (£3 under 18s). For info; 07878 789313 (Perfect Circle) or 01684 893858 (St Peters Church).

Curiosity Museum – workshops for schools

More than 750 young people are expected to attend the **Three Counties Careers Fair** in Jan, showcasing what's on offer at colleges and universities as well as giving access to employers from across Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. As part of this event schools can book onto **Equal Vision's** award-winning careers workshop "**The Curiosity Museum**"; a touring mini-museum giving students an innovative and inspiring introduction to the full range of jobs in the UK Careers Strategy.

Students who visit the **Curiosity Museum** can take part in a series of thought-provoking activities to equip them with the transferable skill-set and career insights they need to make well-informed decisions about their future.

Using creative thinking techniques, the workshops aim to motivate, energise and inspire students to reach their full potential.



Manda Graham, Director at Equal Vision said: "We're really excited to be bringing the **Curiosity Museum** to the **Three Counties Careers Fair**. Seventy one per cent of students who have taken part in our unique programme have told us that they have gained a new insight into their future careers."

Schools can book the Curiosity Museum's 90 minute workshop for groups up to 20 students visit: www.curiositymuseum.co.uk
To register your interest in the Three Counties Careers Fair visit threecountiesagriculturalsociety.co.uk/education/careers-fair/
Three Counties Showground, Malvern Thurs 24th Jan 2019

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©Annie Attridge, The Divine and the Mortal. Photo: Matthew Booth

Worcester Museum & Art Gallery events

This Christmas, **Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum** is urging visitors to support local artists and craft makers through visiting two exhibitions which celebrate a wealth of local talent.

Crafted for You runs until 5 January and shows an exquisite array of jewellery, glassware, ceramics and other handmade craftsmanship. Worcestershire has a special history as a centre for decorative making skills and this tradition continues today and is proudly celebrated in this exhibition. Each piece has been made by a talented maker and hand-picked for this top-quality exhibition. **Crafted for You** is perfect for that unique Christmas gift for someone special or hard to buy for, all items are for sale and make perfect presents with a local provenance. Purchasing from the exhibition supports both the museum and local artists.

Maggie Wallace, exhibition curator said: "This showcase is a celebration of craft with so many different talented makers producing beautiful wares. If you are looking for a Christmas gift for someone special, or a treat for yourself, **Crafted for You** will have what you are looking for."

Throughout December visitors will also have the opportunity to



join **Worcester Society of Artists** for a series of demonstrations of their particular area of practice alongside their 71st annual exhibition. The Society of Artists exhibition is a great opportunity to see a fabulous and eclectic selection of art

created by local artists. Founded in 1947 to encourage the appreciation, understanding and practice of the visual arts, the Society has exhibited every year since their first year of existence at Worcester City Art Gallery.

Spoken word poetry tour of the George Marshall Medical Museum

Trying something a little different with a tour of words at one of Worcester's best-kept secrets, **The George Marshall Medical Museum**.

Louise Price, curator at the museum worked with **Tom Ball**, an English and Creative Writing student at the University of Birmingham to develop a spoken word poetry tour of the Museum which could have an after-life for future visitors. George Marshall Medical Museum is located in the medical education centre on the site of **Worcestershire Royal Hospital** and most of their events are free, so Tom had cart blanche to create something which would work for whatever type of visitor walked through the door that day, be it hospital staff, families with children or medical students.



A special Christmas event at the Gallery on Saturday 1st December 11am – 1pm welcomes visitors to enjoy a festive drink and mince pie with a bonus of 10% off purchases all day in the 'Crafted for You' exhibition and Society of Artists exhibition as well as purchases from the Art Gallery & Museum Shop. Every penny spent in the Shop goes back into supporting the work of the Art Gallery & Museum and enables exciting exhibitions and events to happen.



Museum after Hours is back on 14th Dec so expect good seasonal fun with live music from Men in Harmony and the Museum's very own **Snow Queen Cocktail**. 5.30pm-8pm.

Then get along to our Family Christmas Crafts on Sat 22nd Dec to make your own sparkly Christmas wreath- print, paint and pattern and add a little Christmas magic. 11am-3pm.



Crafted for You runs until Jan 5th. Worcester Society of Artists 71st Annual Exhibition runs until Jan 26th

For more information see www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk or call 01905 25371.

Images: *Snowpeople* by Hilary Mee, Robinson & Queen counting her deer, stained glass panels by Frans Wesselman

Tom delivered the tour on 2nd No. He said: "A lot of my poetry is inspired by the tremendous talent of the Decadent writers of the 1890s (Oscar Wilde, John Gray, Arthur Symonds) and also from the Gothic period (Mary Shelley, Edgar Allen Poe, Jane Austen)."

The fantastic poems, which both delighted and shocked our varied audience (!), highlighted some of Tom's favourite pieces on display, or those that moved him most during his research time in the Museum. You can collect your free paper copy of these tours on the leaflet desk just inside the Museum's entrance doors, and now listen to a few of them at the Museum's Soundcloud account.

Tom's poem about the Museum's amputation chair from Silver Street Infirmary was a hit. This chair, dated to around 1750, would have been used at the original Worcester Infirmary on Silver Street, at a time before anaesthetics!

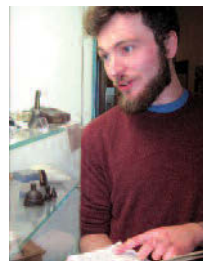
Crude Wooden Chair

*Walls stained by pained screams
Poor patients latched into
Crude wooden chairs.*

*A cry to wake the dead
Clawing pathetically at mahogany
As the saw slowly swings*

*Burning pain begetting madness
The vicious touch of metal on bone
As you're latched to a crude wooden chair.*

If you like any of Tom's poems, you can read his latest work at his Instagram account @OldManThomas.



The George Marshall Medical Museum is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. 01905 760738 www.medicalmuseum.org.uk

Festive Family Fun At Artrix

There's a whole host of family events at Artrix throughout the festive season, from Sing-A-Long films to a traditional family Pantomime.

On 1st Dec, Artrix welcomes the feel-good family stage show **Santa In Love**. Audiences are invited to join Santa and his friends in this fun filled family musical, complete with games, giggles and all your favourite Christmas songs. Santa will be available after the show for a meet and greet with little ones and to hand out a gift. This show is best suited for ages 2+.

Also on the 1st, there's the final chance for families to join participate with a lantern making workshop, ahead of the **Festival of Light Parade** which takes place on 9th Dec. This particular workshop is **Lantern Making For The Brave**, in which participants can create more complicated creations. It's free of charge, but must be booked in advance via Artrix Box Office.

Next up is the warming winter tale, **The Little Match Girl** on 8th Dec. In this touching, madcap, heart-warming Christmas show, **The Last Baguette Theatre Company** use visual storytelling, live music and puppetry to shine a light on Hans Christian Andersen's classic winter tale. This show is best suited for ages 4+.

From 15th to 23rd Dec **All & Sundry** present their annual traditional family Pantomime and this year it's **Jack And The Beanstalk**. Expect a giant of a panto with fun, laughter and plenty of audience participation.

On 18th Dec Artrix Cinema will be screening **The Royal Ballet Live Encore: The Nutcracker**. Stunning dancing, combined with Tchaikovsky's sumptuous, iconic score are presented in a festive period setting with vivid designs to make this a charming and magical production.

Then on Christmas Eve, families are invited to the stage production of Santa's Christmas Party. There will be adventure, festive songs, party games and the chance to meet Santa and receive a special gift. This show is best suited for 2-7 year olds.

Throughout Dec, Artrix will be screening *The Nutcracker* and the *Four Realms* (rated PG) on 7th, 10th, 21st and 28th. Starring Keira Knightley as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Disney's new holiday feature film is inspired by E.T.A. Hoffmann's classic tale.

Finally, come and create more festive sparkle on 29th Dec with a special Sing-A-Long screening of Disney's live action *Beauty and the Beast* (rate PG). Be our guest and re-live the magic of this classic fairytale, starring Emma Watson as Belle and Dan Stevens at The Beast. Fancy dress isn't essential but is positively encouraged!

For tickets of further details of any of the events detailed above visit www.artrix.co.uk or call Box Office on 01527 577330.



The Little Match Girl by
The Last Baguette Theatre Company

Help to Name Worcester's New Arts Space

Worcester residents are invited to attend two events to help pick the name of the new arts space being developed at city centre church, **St Swithun's**. The multi-million pound regeneration project – supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund - will transform the historically significant Georgian building into a unique arts space for Worcester, set to launch in 2020.

On Saturday 1st December visitors can drop in to St Swithun's during the **Victorian Fayre** between 10.30am and 3pm to see plans for the new arts space and to vote for their favourite name from the final shortlist.

There will be a further chance to vote on Saturday 8th December at a free family Christmas event as part of the **#ThanksToYou National Lottery Celebration**. Visitors with a national lottery ticket will be able to take part in a free family activity creating seasonal decorations inspired by the motifs and objects in St Swithun's with renowned artist **Becky Adams**. Becky's work is centred on textile and book art providing a tactile link to past experience and it appears in several public collections including the Victoria and Albert and Tate Gallery.

Hywel Pontin, Centre Manager of St Swithun's at **The Churches Conservation Trust**, commented: 'We are so excited to transform St Swithun's - a unique piece of Worcester's heritage - into an arts space for the whole community to enjoy. We'd love the people of Worcester to drop in on either the 1st or 8th December to see the plans and vote for their favourite name from our shortlist. We are also hugely honoured to have renowned artist **Becky Adams** joining us on Saturday 8th December to create Christmas decorations with any visiting families who come with a lottery ticket.'

St Swithun's Church is cared for by heritage charity, **The Churches Conservation Trust**. As well as creating a brand new arts space for Worcester, over the next year the charity will be undertaking extensive repair work on the roof of the church ensuring that the building is watertight, protecting the complete Georgian interior. The church is currently open daily and visitors are welcome. It is anticipated that building works will begin in summer 2019.

Christmas Family Arts and Crafts

Saturday 8th December 10am – 3pm. St Swithun's Church, Church Street, Worcester, Worcestershire, WR1 2RH Free with any national lottery ticket and Join renowned artist Becky Adams to make festive decorations. See plans for the new arts space at St Swithun's and vote for your favourite name on the shortlist.



For information about St Swithun's and the project to transform it into an arts space see website visitchurches.org.uk/stswithuns or follow on facebook or Instagram.

Suz Winspear

Once again, Christmas is on its way, and the TV breaks are flooded with ghastly Christmas adverts (apart from the Iceland ad which, being about important environmental issues rather than promoting excessive consumer consumption, has been decreed unacceptable and been banished to the internet). Christmas is a difficult time for a lot of people. We are being bombarded with media images of the perfect Christmas, of happy affluent families in spacious houses eating magnificent meals and opening mounds of expensive presents whilst enjoying one another's company. For many of us in Austerity Britain, this is an unreal fantasy. Most of us don't have the finances, and families aren't always happy and harmonious. Christmas is the time when family tensions come to the surface, when people are stuck together in the same house with no public transport to enable an escape. Old quarrels, resentments and disputes are easily fuelled with alcohol, along with bad memories of the past, and feelings of failure at not having



created a Christmas as good as the adverts told us that we should have made. This can be the most stressful and isolating time of the year – for mental health, Christmas can be absolutely toxic!

Remember, the whole purpose of all these advertisements and media images is to pressurise us to spend money and consume more resources than we can possibly need. So try not to worry about it too much, try to spend some time with the people you like rather than those you feel obliged to spend time with, don't feel embarrassed about needing to take time out or be on your own, don't feel you have to be sociable if you need solitude, and try not to dwell on arguments or things that didn't work out as you'd hoped. If you feel trapped and unhappy, message your friends, communicate on social media, do an online rant – there will always be somebody sitting up late who has also had a stressful time! . . . And remember, it's only for one day, and after Boxing Day the supermarkets will be crammed with shelves full of cut price cake, cheese and chocolate – so at least there's something to look forward to!

If Christmas is all too much for you, there are some midwinter Spoken Word events into which you can escape . . .

Thursday 6th December – Dear Listener at Boston Tea Party, Angel Place. This is an early-evening event of eclectic poetry and spoken word, from both new and established voices. This month is the *Birthday Bash – Dear Listener* has been running for a year, and now it's time to celebrate! There will be special guests, some brilliant poets, and some wonderful poetry – come and join the party! £3 admission. 6.30 – 8.30pm. (Dear Listener details for January are yet to be confirmed – follow the event's Facebook page to find them out!)

Saturday 8th December – Licensed to Rhyme at Worcester Arts Workshop Leaving its Barnt Green home, this monthly event is coming to the Worcester Arts Workshop with some exciting Spoken Word talent! The headliners will be the Black Country group '*Poets, Prattlers and Pandemonialists*' who are **Emma Purshouse, Steve Pottinger, and Dave Pitt**. Also performing are the amazing **Dreadlock Alien, Willis the Poet and Holly Daffurn**. The hosts will be former Worcestershire Poets Laureate **Maggie Doyle** and **Fergus McGonigal**. Open mic slots available from maggiedoylepoet@gmail.com

Thursday 13th December – SpeakEasy at Waylands Yard Poetry from a wide range of local poets. Our featured performer is **Michael Thomas**, a poet who's making an impact on the Worcestershire scene! Open Mic slots available on a first-come, first-served basis. They're popular, so get there early. £3 admission, 7.30pm

There won't be a **December 42** this year – it's cold outside, so the event will be moving for the midwinter month to the internet where it's warmer . . . It's time to get writing your Ghoulish Christmas Story! Write a story on theme, email it to performers@42worcester.com, and it will be published on the website. (Copyright remains with the author). Rather than venturing out into the weather, we can all sit at home and read some delicious seasonal ghost stories!

Thursday 10th January – SpeakEasy at Waylands Yard Poetry from a wide range of local poets. Featuring some exciting new talent from the poetry world to brighten the New Year! Open Mic slots available on a first-come, first-served basis . . . Oh yes, and there will be our legendary raffle (involves a goth poet and an orange bucket . . .) £3 admission, 7.30pm

Wednesday 30th January – 42 at Drummonds Bar Life, the Universe and Everything – prose and poetry – Gothic horror, science fiction, fantasy, storytelling, comedy, reportage, genre fiction, and a few categories that haven't yet been given a name. Now that Christmas is out of the way, it's time to rejoin the physical world for us 42 ghouls, so we'll be back at Drummonds . . . This evening's theme is '*Crenellations, Crypts and Cryptography*'. Free entry. 7.30pm.

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Open mic night launches 'The Third Space' at Worcester Arts Workshop

Worcester Arts Workshop will officially open its new performance area, **The Third Space**, on Saturday 1st December with an open mic night from 7pm.

The Third Space is an intimate performance area, within the recently refurbished cafe bar. The versatile performance space can be used for music, spoken word, small scale performances and exhibitions.



The current exhibition on display in The Third Place is by artist **Jack Shepherd. Nouvus Stratum**, which features a selection of Jack's vibrant paintings, runs until 23 December.

Director of Transformation at Worcester Arts Workshop, **Hannah Phillips** said; *"This project is not just about launching a cafe bar, it is about a further platform at Worcester Arts Workshop for emerging talent and creating a community arts hub."*

Launching The Third Space Open Mic Night will be a host of local up-and-coming musicians, including Worcester based singer-songwriter **Poppy WS** who performed at the Worcester Arts Workshop Launch Event earlier this month. She is described as a multi-instrumentalist with a classical style blended with soul. Her energy and music contrasts between reggae rhythms to jazz piano covers and original material, making for both a heart-warming and engaging performance.



Recent changes to Worcester Art Workshop, under the new leadership of Hannah Phillips, have seen the public spaces refurbished and the programme of events re-imagined. As part of this transformation, The Third Space has been created to



encourage budding performers and to help attract wider audiences. Cafe Bar Manager **Gregory Smith** said; *"We hope that the Cafe Bar at Worcester Arts Workshop 'The Third Space' will establish a new space in which people want to socialise, enjoy great food and drink be creative and basically have fun. Having The Third Space as a performance area within Worcester Arts Workshop will be a wonderful way to spread the creative flow throughout the building. I'm excited to see audiences and customers enjoying The Third Space."*

Other events throughout December in **The Third Space** include an additional Open Mic afternoon on Sunday 2nd December from 2pm (admission free), a performance by **Collective 43** on Friday 7th December at 8pm (admission free) and performance poetry from **License to Rhyme** on Saturday 8 December at 7.30pm (admission £5).

For further information, visit worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk.

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Challenging society through film and debate

The **Courtyard, Hereford** are hosting a special event this January screening the 2018 Norwegian drama, *Utoya: 22nd July* followed by a debate.

The **BFI Film Audience Network** have been working with a number of independent cinemas around the UK to develop young audiences and get them interested in film. The **Courtyard** are working with them on *Utoya: 22 July* to create an experience and offer more than "just a film".

Punishing and immediate, *Utoya: 22 July* is an almost real-time experience of the terrorist attack on a student camp on the island of Utoya from the point-of-view of Kaja, an 18-year-old girl, and her friends. The film is based on the real story of events on July 22 2011, when more than 500 youths were attacked by an armed, right-wing extremist.

The Courtyard have invited four of **Hereford Sixth Form College's** top Debate Society members to come and discuss a topic raised by the film: 'Society has been desensitized to violence and *Utoya* is a positive step towards resensitizing us.' The debaters will take it in turns to discuss the arguments for and against the statement before opening up things up to the audience. A group of their peers are coming along to see the film and lead the way in the Q&A portion of the debate.

Courtyard's Audience Development Manager, **Robyn Barratt** said "We're really excited to have the Hereford Sixth Form College Debate Society getting involved in The Courtyard's work developing young audiences for independent cinema. They're such a passionate group of students and we can't wait to see what they come up with."

Audiences are encouraged to come along, get involved and celebrate some of Hereford's brightest students.

Utoya: 22 July & HSFC debate will be in the **Courtyard's Studio Theatre** on 28th Jan at 7.30pm. To book, or for more info: 01432 340555 or www.courtyard.org.uk.



Annual Festive Parade

Shines A Light On Bromsgrove Community

On 9th Dec, **Bromsgrove Town Centre** will once again be illuminated as **The Festival of Light Parade**, created in partnership with **Artrix, NWedR** and **Bromsgrove District Council**, returns for another year.

The Festival of Light, is an atmospheric outdoor event, suitable for all the family, aiming to bring together the people of Bromsgrove in a community celebration of togetherness, light and the Winter season. **Artrix Arts Centre** is programming the event and has once again collaborated with Associate Artist, **Kristoffer Huball** to create stunning paper lanterns, which will be candle lit and paraded through Bromsgrove's High Street.

Kristoffer has been working with lots of community groups, schools and families to create beautiful paper lanterns. Artrix Associate Artist, Kristoffer Huball said; "This year we've more than doubled the community work that we did in 2017, engaging 18

schools and community groups in lantern making workshops compared to last year's 6. We're projected to finish with a total of more than 800. This includes schools, community groups like the Brownies and Guides, The Hub's LGBTQ+ group, The Starlight Café and the public sessions. I'm so proud of everyone involved and can't wait to see them all in the high street, shining real lights for the warmth of community outdoor art."

Following the huge success of last year's Festival of Light, **Kristoffer Huball** has joined forces with **Shademakers**, one of Europe's leading carnival groups, to create an even bigger and more lavish parade for 2018. There will be music, dance and stunning costumes as the candlelit procession travels along Bromsgrove High Street.



The Festival of Light is a free family event on Sun 9th December at 5pm. Everyone is invited and town centre parking will be free on the day.

For info visit www.artrix.co.uk or 01527 577330. Please note: no paper lanterns will be released into the sky.

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Dancefest — looking to 2019

Dancefest had a busy year, working with around 8,000 people and creating projects for schools and community organisations, as well as performances for festivals, in theatres - or just popping up in a street or park near you.

They have a few more performances planned for December – at **Tenbury Mistletoe Festival** on 1st Dec and their **Winter Wrap Ups** for their classes on 13th and 14th Dec.

Much is planned for 2019, and their new term of weekly classes starts on 14th Jan – if you book before the start of term you'll get an early bird discount. There are also free auditions in the first week of term for anyone who'd like to join one of their performance companies for all ages.

On 27th Jan there'll be a special guest workshop led by **Being Frank's Dave McKenna**, looking at creating floor and contact work with young people. An ideal session for teachers, dance artists and anyone who creates performances with young people, it takes place at 10am-3pm at **The Angel Centre**.

Look out for a range of master-classes starting in January, open to all young dancers. They'll take place on Thursday evenings throughout the year and will include ballet and contact work, helping young dancers develop a broader skills base.

Dancefest will be working with **The Courtyard in Hereford** on **Moving Pictures**, a day of dance and film for people aged 55 and over. It takes place on 30th Jan and includes a screening of **Moulin Rouge**, lunch and dance workshops. And, as ever, there are a whole host of performances coming up next year – so go along and join them if you fancy learning a new skill, getting fit for the new year or performing in all sorts of unusual places!

You can find out more about Dancefest at dancefest.co.uk or give them a ring on 01905 611199.



'Opening Time' by Micheal Woods Book Launch

The Lamb and Flag, Worcester | Mon 10th Dec

'*Opening Time*', is the third poetry collection by local poet, **Michael Woods**, to be published by **Templar Poetry**. The book contains fifty-two sonnets centred on the **Lamb and Flag**, Irish pub, come Italian bar/ristorante and it's renowned, evergrowing mix of musicians, poets, artists and drinkers.

The collection is a beautifully observed poetic history of the pub and weaves together the characters, culture, stories, music, architecture, generations, tastes, colours, voices and ongoing evolution of this legendary local watering hole.

I caught up with the Michael Woods, a long standing patron of the Lamb and Flag, and asked him what inspired him to create the collection.

"I decided to turn "Opening Time" into a full-length collection after having initially written half a dozen sonnets celebrating aspects of The Lamb and Flag," he explains.

"As in any pub, there is an eclectic mix of characters and opinion represented and it struck me that to centre a collection in a pub provides a good sounding board for these.

"Serendipitously, Ireland gave way to Italy when The Lamb and Flag changed hands in 2016. It was Italy, of course, that gave us the sonnet and this is reflected in the book. From the cricket match against Bangladesh to the arrival of spaghetti carbonara, all life is here.

Michael also tells me that local printer, **Stan Greer**, has reprinted the title poem "*Opening Time*" in a limited edition run of 100 beer mats by hand on his own press, as a nod to the shape and brevity of the sonnet form.

The collection will be launched at a special event on Monday 10th Dec 2018 starting at 18.30 at The Lamb and Flag, The Tything where, in the words of one of the new sonnets "the welcome word was *fáilte*, now it's *ciao*".

Maria Baldwin



Opening Time Michael Woods

Opening Time, a new poetry collection published by Templar Poetry. The action photo of Don Jones is by Len Davis.

Books will be available there and at: michaeljwoods.me.uk

Pre-Christmas craic! Salute! Slainte!

What's on at Artrix

There will be music from **The Upbeat Beatles** on 1 December, **Five Star Swing** at Christmas on 4 December, **The Dylan Project** on 7 December and **Tenors Un Limited** Christmas Show on 11 December featuring Artrix's very own **SongStars Show Choir**.

Gordon Hendricks as Elvis returns with a Christmas Special on 8 December, followed by **Cara Dillon: Upon A Winter's Night** on 12 December.

Audiences are invited to see in the New Year with **The Beat Brothers** New Year's Eve Party on 31 December.



Artrix are thrilled to welcome Award-winning **Paines Plough Theatre Company** with their latest gig-theatre extravaganza, **Pop Music** on 5 December. Described as 'a theatrical earworm, about life, love and the dance floor', it's set to be a bangin' night at the theatre.

Comedy highlights for December include sets from **Matt Richardson** on 1 December and **Barbara Nice's Christmas Cracker** on 4 December.

All the family are welcome to Bromsgrove's **Festival of Light Parade** on Sunday 9 December and there are family friendly shows **Santa in Love** on 1 December, **The Little Match Girl** on 8 December and All & Sundry's pantomime, **Jack & The Beanstalk** from 15 to 23 December.



December is full of feel good cinema, from the new blockbuster **The Nutcracker and the Four Realms** on 7, 10, 21 & 28 December to Christmas classic **It's A Wonderful Life** on 14 December and screenings of **Sing-A-Long Mamma Mia!** and **Beauty & The Beast** over the Christmas holiday.



Artrix begins the New Year with a bang as **The Take That Experience** relight your fire on 4 January, shortly followed by the finest, most authentic rhythm & blues band ever to come from outside the USA, **King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys** on 5 January.

Bromsgrove Concerts presents their first concert of 2019, **Zelkova String Quartet** on 11 January.

The Best of Queen perform **Queen's Greatest Hits** at Artrix on 12 January followed by **Money For Nothing: Dire Straits Tribute** on the Main Stage on 18 January.

The Johnny Cash Roadshow, the only show endorsed by the Cash family, returns to Artrix with the **San Quentin Anniversary Show** on 19 January.

To round off the month's music, **The Counterfeit Stones** will perform for two nights in a row at Artrix on 25 & 26 January.

The King of Waltz André Rieu will bring to millions of fans across the world, his New Year's concert, with a special cinema screening on 6 & 7 January (rated 12A), followed by a live screening **Everybody's Talking About Jamie** (rated 12A) on 29 January and The Royal Opera House's **La Traviata** on 30 January (rated 12A).

Three top comics, bring a Saturday night of laughs to Artrix with **Barnstormers Comedy** on 26 January.

Families can enjoy **Oddsock's Theatre: Robin Hood and the Revolting Peasants** on 13 January and screenings of **Mary Poppins Returns** from 18 to 25 January (rated PG).

Details of all events can be found at www.artrix.co.uk or by calling Box Office on 01527 577330.

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They grow up so fast...

Reflecting on the last 12 months, Rachel says: *"We're really proud of what we've achieved so far. But more than anything else, we love the community we've become a part of and, we hope, have helped to enhance. Worcester's such a creative city, so from day one, we wanted to make this a space where creative people felt at home. We're really pleased with how it's going so far."*

From a music perspective, alone, the venue has already played host to hundreds of bands, featuring musicians from all over the world. But, at the core of all that is **Rachel and Kit's** tribalistic support of local talent and events. In September, for example, Paradiddles played a part in the **Worcester Music Festival**, with



17 bands performing at the venue across the weekend. In addition, Paradiddles is the home of one of Worcester's newest crazes: *"Bandeoke"*, hosted by local band **Polkadot Robot**.

Even when there's not a gig on, you'll find local bands' merchandise (CD's, t-shirts, and so on) on sale in the venue. And, in support of emerging talent, students from local colleges use the space for concerts as part of their college course. **Paradiddles**, then, is becoming a genuinely integral part of the local, creative community.

Paradiddles has also been used for charitable events and good causes, including a concert in aid of the **Teenage Cancer Trust** and a poetry book launch that featured several fantastic poets sharing their work regarding mental health. *"We even had the Mayor of Worcester in for that one. He got up and read his own poem, which was great"* says Rachel.



Birthday All-Dayer Paradiddles, Worcester | Sat 15th Dec

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar in Sidbury, Worcester will be celebrating their one-year anniversary of opening! Since opening, **Paradiddles** has become a well-loved hangout spot for local musicians, music fans, and others. Many great acts have played there over the last year, and several of them are returning for an all-day bash to make Paradiddles' birthday go off with a bang!

Kicking off the proceedings are **Social Outcasts**, a young band from Worcester playing energetic and infectious pop punk with two vocalists. Expect a mix of covers and originals played with passion! Next up are **The Lightweight**s, with their brand of gritty yet hooky indie rock with fuzzed out guitar riffs and clean, melodic vocals- a winning combination!

Horror on the High Seas will be thrashing their way through savage singalongs from their 4 year career, including cuts from

In addition, the venue hosted a quiz for **The Women's Equality Party**, which featured in a BBC Radio 4 documentary during the local council elections. **Worcester Pride** also organised an event at the venue called *'Out in the Shires'*, which was a queer-arts, festival takeover. That ended up providing the venue's first comedy monologue performances.

So, the first year has been all-go for the team of two. And yet, that's not all they've been up to. Paradiddles has been used for dance classes and has become a hub for those looking to learn an instrument, something key to Rachel and Kit's passion for music.



Lessons take place in the venue's rehearsal space, which is also used by many of the bands that go on to perform there later.

Rachel explains that the diversity of events at Paradiddles is a big part of what excites them about the future: *"It's hard not to be motivated about what lies ahead. Our monthly music-focused quiz is more popular than ever. And the same goes for the unplugged jam sessions we host, where everyone from expert players to beginners get involved. One of the popular events we host is Behind the Music, which sees songwriters perform their songs and tell the story behind them."*

Now, with their first year behind them, Rachel and Kit are focusing on the future. For the festive season, they'll be introducing new drinks, including espresso martinis and hot white Russians. Then, in January, the menu will expand to include breakfast and lunch options. And, as usual, everything will have a heavy vegan leaning.

The DIY ethos, which has worked so well in making locals feel comfortable, will remain. It's part of what Rachel and Kit believe separates Paradiddles from everywhere else. *"We want customers, promoters, charities, and everyone between, to get involved. All you need to do is pop in to say hello, tell your idea and we'll do what we can to help you make it happen."*

their recent EP *Old Tricks*. Anthemic songs with angular riffs are the order of the day here! Melodic pop-punk/indie rock crossovers **3WOD** will bring their energetic live show back to the room (not just the stage!) to get everyone singing- imagine the hooks of Blink-182 with The Libertines' garage rock scuzz!

Blues-punk duo **The Jericho Racks**, formed in Paradiddles' own rehearsal room (after which their upcoming album *Backroom Blues* is named), will go wild, fresh from supporting successful local desert-rock gang Nuns of the Tundra on their December tour. Groovy alt-rock duo **Hipflask Virgins** will provide Nirvana, Foo Fighters and Queens of the Stone Age-inspired riffs, with a side of great banter and mesmerising stage presence. Get ready for heavy tunes with ice-cool vocals! **As Mamas** will return from a jaunt in Brighton to melt minds and faces with their psychedelic garage rock riffs. These guys balance their 60s vibes with a manic punk energy- not to be missed!

To top it all off, a mystery act will be playing a secret set to headline the night... The show goes from 3 until late, with food and drinks available at the bar all day!

Dan Knight

Bast | Nanoångström

Bast are an experimental three-piece metal band featuring a couple of locals who have now since moved to the capitol. Their debut album *Spectres*, released back in 2014, saw their stock grow, a number of high profile tours with the likes of Pallbearer and Conan, as well high profile appearances at the likes of Bloodstock and Roadburn (to name just two festivals). The band's aforementioned debut received rave reviews across the world of metal, whilst even the likes of **Louder Than War** were quick to offer plaudits for their innovative clash of styles, noting elements of doom, black metal, prog and even post rock on their unique disc.

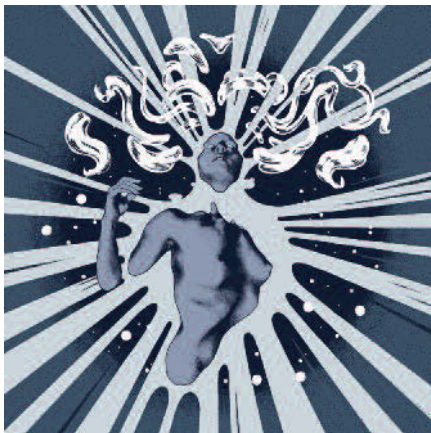
Following a heavy dose of touring across Europe and the UK, **Bast** settled down to work on their follow up, *Nanoångström*. An album that explores the human conditions of loss, isolation and change, whilst continuing to see the band experiment and merge genres during a dense and often challenging affair.

Nanoångström opens with *Distant Suns*, a sub three minute instrumental mood setter that has a somewhat futuristic and perhaps cinematic feel. Wind whips around a barren landscape of post rock guitars and pulse like rhythmic throbs until finally segueing into the ten and half minute riff driven *Far Horizons*. The band step on the power as down tuned riffs clash with monstrous assaults of the drumkit and guttural, near black metal vocals. It twists once more as military drums and a melodic mid section draws the listener further in as the band continue to make unexpected, yet thrilling turns, during the track's inventive journey. By now the band have me sat bolt upright listening intently for those changes of pace and substance. *The Beckoning Void* doesn't disappoint, pounding kick and snare introduce the song. Psychedelic guitars swirl before **Chris Naughton** of *Winterfylleth*

unleashes a mighty growl as the band pummel and pound in a glorious cacophony of sludgy black metal noise, before stepping off the power completely as melodic guitars burst forward and meander skyward. **Bast** weave an intoxicating melody into the heart of the track before building to an almost choral cry of 'We, we will die' as shards of guitar continue to punch through the thick, heavy rhythmic fog.

The title track follows and again those swirling guitars are present as an ominous Sabbath meets the output of early Peaceville Records, like rhythm echoes from the speakers as the band lay down another downbeat slab of gloom. Striking riffs and a pounded, almost tribal drum salvo breaks through, creating a bewitching groove leading the listener through the eleven minute mantra and onto the mesmeric.

Bast perhaps sum *Nanoångström* up with it's final twelve minute opus, *A Red Line Through Black*, a track that seems to somehow weld all the various elements and ideas of the three-piece into one cohesive epic. Mountainous doom fueled riffs and beats reign down, whilst guttural grunts and growls make their presence felt. A final a minute of restrained, atmospheric, post rock draws the album, and perhaps humanity itself, to a fitting close, bringing the album full circle as the



final credits run.

When first encountering *Nanoångström* I felt a little daunted by five out of the six tracks weighing in or around the ten minute mark, but there's so much going on within the realms of a **Bast** song that it's easy to lose yourself and get caught up with the left turns and tempo changes, that you don't notice their duration. Instead you're focusing and marveling on the subtleties, musicianship and structures that the band create, finding yourself completely engrossed in the album as a whole. With *Nanoångström*, **Bast** have delivered one of the most inventive and captivating albums of the year, regardless of genre.

Will Munn

www.bastband.com

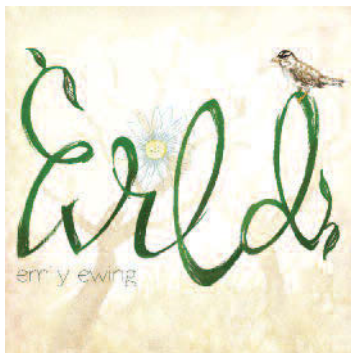
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Emily Ewing | Wild

West Midlands based singer-songwriter **Emily Ewing** has been busy since the release of her debut self-titled EP, a few years back. There have been co-writes and recordings with the likes of Birmingham songwriter Robert Lane and numerous session recordings and column inches for *Lights Out Zine*. But in recent months, Emily has returned to the studio with producer **Dave Draper** in tow to record a brand new three-track EP entitled *Wild*.

The title-track leads proceedings and sees Ewing behind the piano, delivering a subtle yet affecting melody. But it's her luscious soulful tones that draw the listener in. Slowly seducing as the track unwinds and sees Emily self-harmonise whilst Draper adds touches of instrumentation that bubble, rather than obstruct, further framing the gorgeous lead. *Wild*, is akin to stepping in for a hot soak after a long hard shift down the mine, it's a warm welcoming caress that washes over you, enticing you to submerge completely Ewing's soul kissed pop.

Now Emily has your attention she invites drummer, Craig Blundell (current sticksman for prog rock legend Steve Wilson!!) in for a brilliant, slice of autumnal acoustic driven, rootsy pop, again, Ewing's beautiful lead is at the forefront of the mix, whilst a keen melody leads us towards a big, radio friendly hook, that once again features those aforementioned, winning harmonies and an infectious refrain that's hard to ignore.



Whilst the EP's preceding songs mark out Emily Ewing's brand of pop as something special, it's the final number, *Patience*, that truly seals the deal. Based around a repetitive sparse piano motif, she delivers a heart wrenching slab of emotive modern day R&B, with a slight orchestral undertone and a suitable compliment of drums, the chilling instrumentation weaves an evocative spell whilst Ewing pleads for 'more than words' as her patience finally runs dry, during her stunning final lament, rendering *Wild* as absolute must have EP from a very talented artist.

emilymusicworld.co.uk

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Peter With Rosie Christmas In The Market Towns

When **Pete Adams** (of *And What Will Be Left Of Them?*, *Hey You Guys!* fame) and **Rosie Green** (*Basement Orchestra/Stow-Cappella Choir*) got married, they decided instead of venturing off on honeymoon they'd do something a little different. So with producer **Sam Thomas** in tow, the duo retreated to **Sound Terrace Studios** to record a Christmas album with a twist.

Pete Adams has prior history with the silly season, releasing a should have been, (anti) festive fave, *Bring Me The Head Of The Man Dressed In Red* under his **Lost Boy Scout** monicker. But whilst that was a brash, biting, slab of shouty indie pop, *Christmas In The Market Towns* is far removed from his more typical fair. Gone are the choppy riffs and half spoken, half sung draws that we become accustomed with. Instead Adams delivers fragile, folky croons and sparse, strummed acoustic guitar, whilst Rosie adds stunning, clean, crystalline harmonies and her own enchanting leads, contrasting and complimenting in equal measure during this beautifully understated nine track affair.

Personally, I struggle with most seasonal discs, I don't want to hear 'Last Christmas' or 'Santa Baby' on loop, but there are exceptions and *Christmas In The Market Towns* reminds of one such release, Low's *Christmas* in that there's no forced jollity. Instead we're faced with intimate, stark affairs, suggesting there's more going on in Market Towns than choirs and tinsel. Opening with a short prelude of sleigh bells, strums and flute, Pete and Rosie set the tone with a brief instrumental that hints at 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' before taking to the cobbled streets of the



said towns via Bethlehem on the (near) title track. Pete's restrained vocals are framed by a lonesome six string before Rosie swells the sound as the duo reach the choral hook, a shake of a tambourine and subtle keys add a delicate peppering to the hushed affair, offering some salvation to the chilling winds.

The duo's rendition of *In The Bleak Midwinter* follows and you can almost visualise an appeal by Shelter; families rushing by loaded with gifts, whilst the less fortunate are huddled on street corners as Adam's delicately brushes his guitar and the beautiful, yet haunting entwined vocals of Rosie and her husband drift down the high street. It's a sad scene but the barely audible guitar and dual voices tug at the heartstrings, moving even the most hardened scrooge. *Ten Tiny Toes* offers more hope as the duo celebrate the wonderment of childbirth with a hushed, serene choral hook, gently lulling the listener. Then Rosie takes over lead duties for a breathtaking acappella take on the traditional, Basque folk carol, *The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came*, really showcasing her beautiful tones in full.

Elsewhere like the aforementioned *Low*, (and indeed countless others) the duo tackle a becalmed, *Silent Night*, before hinting at prior, indie influences (only with that organic, stripped back feel that's present throughout) with the infectious Rosie led four minutes plus off *Miss You*, before Pete asks if Jesus was born today 'would a holy choir play or would your waking calls be masked behind closing doors' over folk plucks during a brooding penultimate number in the shape of *The Visitors*.

Pete With Rosie close proceedings by returning to the opening refrain of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, uniting it with a tribute to the fiftieth anniversary of the Apollo 8 Christmas Eve broadcast. Engaging the listener one final time, as they sign off an alternative, unique and compelling look at 'Christmas In The Market Towns' having delivered a rare festive musical treat worth unwrapping.

Will Munn

Last Tree Squad | These Days

Last Tree Squad are a socially conscious Hereford based seven-piece band. They formed back in 2013, when a number of well known local musicians (from previous bands, such as the acclaimed, Dubmerge) joined forces to concoct an evocative musical Molotov. Mixing reggae, hip-hop, ska, jungle and drum & bass to create energetic, hard hitting tracks that spread a message whilst simultaneously drag you to your feet.

The band's recent EP, *We'll Be There For You*, sees frontman, Lofty draw from first hand experience of working with young people who have been affected and influenced by gang and drug culture. Helping different groups of people to express themselves through music and hopefully set them on a more positive path away from "too much greed, too much hate, too many kids with no food on their plates" as the band's own song, *We No Want It* states. *These Days* is lifted from the same



forementioned EP and showcases not only Lofty's lyrical prowess but the band's mix and match attitude to genres. The band open with an elastic reggae bassline before quickening the pace as the frontman steps into his hip-hop MC guise. Name checking *Pills, Thrills And Bellyaches* (Happy Mondays) and *Stand Up For Your Rights*, as the band head towards an explosive choral hook and the odd funk lick, as **Last Tree Squad** hit the streets, giving a voice to the abused and misused. As the band continue to deliver a damning report of 'These Days', Emilia's saxophone joins an already potent mix and the band change gear, drawing the song to a close on a ska flavoured trip, having already grabbed the listener by the lapels and urged them to listen as they move their feet.

Much like the band's Lakefest set(s) earlier in the year, *These Days* has it all, an infectious groove, a punchy hook and a message, that we don't have to accept what's going on in society right now. We can rise up and wise up, music may not be able to change the world but in the hands of the 'Squad it sure can help.

www.facebook.com/lasttreesquad

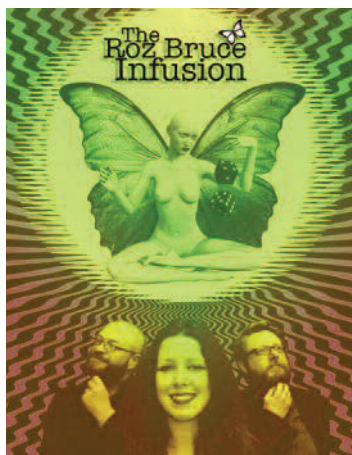
Will Munn

Shelf Indulgence | Roz Bruce Infusion

With new album '*Shelf Indulgence*' **Roz Bruce & co** adapt literary classics to song in an intriguing concept approached here like a synopsis or blurb for each work.

Lyricaly: there's an obvious love for the source material; with just the right amount of depth, summarization, and nuance, shunning the idea of outright lifting passages verbatim, or watering down the powerful concepts & views found within each piece.

Musically: there's a whole lot of dynamical discipline & flexed muscles on display here, opener '*The Dice Man*' has infectious immediacy, it brings to mind Skunk Ananise at their most playful awash with it's firmly honed grooves which roll this grim tale of chance, chaos and circumstance along. '*Metamorphosis*' slinks along phonetically in an odd measure, with a chorus of relief, and a middle 8 that shifts, slivers, and genre hops as if snared from Kafka's own muddled subconscious. '*The Stranger*' has a more blues rock approach with nods of Zeppelin and Ani DeFranco. The saturated hoedown of '*Nausea*' much like Sacre's text, sonically



splits at the tail into a different hallucinatory beast entirely : Bruce at first wielding a fiddle in the musical break, then compound time breakdown & tempo shifts tease on the edge of progressive reason.

Orwell's ode to societies flirting with fascism and the perils of impending totalitarianism ('1984') is converted into a beautifully apt bit of verse & prose with uneven bars at the lines "make $2+2 = 5$ " and sinister non sequiturs proceeding some wonderfully scooped middle legato-painted-lead-lines from Bruce's guitar.

By comparison, '*Catch 22*' follows blasting out a mere two minutes of no messin' blurred-post punk delirium nicely instilling the idea of a contradictory paradox.

Overall, it's a concept that could of easily fallen fowl of bathos or lead to a few page flipping moments, but here they excell: Self aware, fork tongued, fun, lean arrangements distilling complex concepts into manageable pieces, never afraid to jump out of conventional norms where least expected,

none the less throughout they remain sharp and focused, a fine return to form for the trio and a new chapter for what lies ahead, perhaps?

<https://therozbruceinfusion.bandcamp.com>

Craigus Barry

Matt Woosey | Live at Gallagher's Nest

For a long time Matt based himself in Malvern, where he grew from a long-haired electric 'rocker', eventually choosing to take a more acoustic path, delving into the blues in all its forms. Often solo, and sometimes with support of other musicians, albums were recorded and launched onto an apprentice audience, before a fork in the road that brought marriage, a baby boy, a new home in Germany and new inspirations for his music. *Desiderata* brought new music, full of untapped emotions and progressive styles, that mixed jazz, Americana roots, and just a little blues, into an amazing album that's impossible to pigeon hole. Composed of love songs and honest reassessment of life, heading toward the responsibility of husband and father.

His music today is a mix of old favourites, newer songs that build on his new world, and of course, that ever-changing beam of light, struck in *Desiderata*. *Live at Gallagher's Nest* reveals a rich seam of music, recorded at the German venue, with Matt's German band of musicians; **Michi Oertel** on Guitar and Wurlitzer piano, **Ralph 'Salty' Küker** on guitar, **Lukas Steinmeyer** plays bass, as well as long-standing friend, percussionist **Dave Small**, also a proud new father.

The passion and quality captured in Matt's vocals interplay with the band, who have toured in the UK before, and bring Matt's shows to a whole new level, whilst maintaining the intimacy of his solo performances dovetailed into the tour.

Matt's long-standing fan base will love the inclusion of favourites like "*Cruel Disposition*" and the raucous "*Black Smoke Rising*", as



well as Willie Dixon's "*Lil' Red Rooster*", which Matt has fun with, counterbalancing those impassioned love songs that now reflect his life. "*Find A Way*" speaks to us all; a beautiful, sparkling bit of Americana, echoing a plea to those who love us to look beyond our faults. "*One Love*" showcases Matt on his acoustic guitar as he picks his way through the lead in. He opens many of the songs acoustically, before Dave brings in the rest of the band.

The warm, almost lamenting "*Love Changes*" says it all, with mellowed guitar, squawking wah-wah, sweet keys brought by the band, to superb effect.

Then we see the ever-brighter glow of "*Lighthouse*"; the full band produce a pulsating, living edifice, with jazz licks, piano, deep waves of bass and cymbals that crash over rocks to carry its message; a moral code to be signalled to all in sight. Matt has crafted, re-cut, and swaged this serpent of a song into something fantastically sumptuous and chilled, while Michi Oertel adds a pinch of magic dust from his keys.

For all you diehards, have no fear, Matt still has those "*Same Old Blues*", and they quench the thirst nicely. Then there's "*Let it Flow*", more a torrent, as it washes over the rocky rhythm with honeyed guitar. I can't tell you if it's Michi or Ralph, and I don't care; it's a lovely blast that spills into an open pool of peace. Matt's powerful lyrics drift through, before the song explodes over the rapids, the band effervescent. Not to be overlooked is the deliciously dark affair uncovered in "*Don't Tell Nobody*", and the closing bit of blues fun, '*Jelly Roll Jam*', that takes liberties with lyrics, spreading them sweetly and rolling them up into a tasty closing song.

Live At Gallagher's Nest is as desirable as a box of chocolates; a selection of favourites, full of crunchy coatings and soft centres, boxed, wrapped and banded with a ribbon, straight from Germany. It's a treat I'm not going to miss.

Graham Munn

Wille And The Bandits | Path

I've been following this remarkable, original band since their early days spent bumming around small festivals, living a life on the road. Just a whiff of a gig and you can be sure to see me there, so their new album '*Path*' has kept me tracking, stylus like, in its groove. Path seems to shoot straight from their early roots, stirred with the rhythms of 'world music' and a touch of exotic spice.

This is, without reservation, one of the best live bands in the UK and Europe. Driven by the rhythms of percussionist **Andy Naumann**, who draws on the soundscapes of Africa and beyond, alongside **Matt Brooks** on 6 string bass, 5 string stick bass, and cello, a recent addition to his list. All that's needed to complete this recipe is the incomparable slide-playing, grit-spitting **Wille Edwards**, whose pedal array would match the combined grid of a formula one race. **WATB** are the essence of roots rock, producing original music that questions the state of our world; failings of politicians, environmental collapse, and the impact of this crazy, social media-driven frenzy, seemingly bent on self-destruction.

Path keeps the band firmly on that road, perhaps as a guide. "*One Way*" expounds the ethics and dreams of the peacemakers, Mandela, Gandhi and Tutu, Wille slides in from the Delta, while Andy and Matt explode into the rhythm that chatters out like the machine guns of empire building 'modernisers'. "*Make Love*", not



war, rocks, poking politicians' twisted truths, with Wille's guitar that cuts the air, axing through the lies.

Matt's cello acts as a bed for Wille's acoustic notes, pulling us into "*4 Million Ways*", a search for disconnected parents. Matt's string arrangement finds the cello, softly interweaving with guitar, over Andy's percussion. "*Chakra*" gives Andy the opportunity to drag out the Djembe and Hang Drum, while Wille's Weissenborn adds a magical, ethereal tone to the song that questions human destruction of the natural world.

Chill to the funk of "*Keep It On The Down Low*", rave to the dirty fuzz of the money men in "*Find My Way*", before we are diverted to the eastern promise of Indian scales, by Andy on Djembe and Udu. Mystical sounds of the east are tapped out in colours on the tongue drum, with Matt's bass pulsing along, Wille is counting his blessings at watching his daughter grow.

Failed policies and disenfranchised peoples call for "*Retribution*". A soaring slide is underpinned once more by the rhythms of Matt and Andy, as the song makes a final accusatorial poke at the system we all live in, closing their sixth album. It's another juggernaut from this mesmeric band. If you've ever seen them live, which you most definitely should, you will know what I mean.

The recordings of this album, released on the Fat Toad label, were made using vintage valve amps and kit from the '50's, producing a lovely, warm analogue nuance; a Path brushed clear of the weed and detritus of our digital age.

Graham Munn

Songs from Rainbow Hill | Ben Crosland

The release of composer, sound designer and pianist **Ben Crosland's** debut album has been long awaited by those of us familiar with Ben's rare live performances and reflective yet captivating compositions.

'*Songs from Rainbow Hill*' is a collection of contemporary classical pieces performed on solo piano with a delicious intimacy and stirring fluidity. Whether emotive, evocative or simply melodically beautiful each piece transports you to a different place, a different emotional landscape, a different era. It is all at once steeped in nostalgia, yet strangely timeless. There is an exquisite subtlety and sensitivity to Ben's playing which reels you in from the off. Delicate phrases are injected with life as bold splashes of colour and waves of heartwrenching urgency draw up from the depths of the music.

All of the pieces sit around the 3 minute mark, giving the album a captivating pace. This is not something that you'll put on in the background, every note demands to be listened to.



From the aftermath of the Battle of Worcester to summer storms and winter thaw, the themes of the album are as rich and varied and the music. This is an emotive, beautifully crafted and flawlessly performed collection of pieces. The piano sound is resonant, warm and rich.

There is a charm to the album that is achingly British yet speaks of a place we are yet to visit. For someone who shares their hometown with Ben, I can taste shades of Worcester amidst the sinuous melodies. There is a comfort to the warm tones and flickering imagery that each piece conjures, yet nothing is contrived or expected and intense passages of hammering wood on steel drive home an urgent and uneasy contrast to the delicate intricate preceding melodies.

This album is a masterpiece, it is nigh on impossible to isolate standout tracks as each piece has its own unique character and appeal. Each listen offers new insights, new favourites and fresh delight. The songs feel like they belong together, every piece sitting perfectly beside its neighbour. This album has been meticulously crafted yet the emotional charge has it streaked with personality and layers of flavour.

'*A Story Untold*' makes me nostalgic for a past that was never mine to claim as it trips from light to shade in a heady and intoxicating dance. When the optimistic tones of '*Love's Grove*' comes in, you are transported again. **Catherine Harper's** cello graces this single track with a depth of feeling that is breathtaking. This piece has a delicious yearning quality that begs to be revisited.

It is rare for music to so effortlessly lead your emotions and paint vivid imagery in your mind with the ease of this album. There is magic here and I would urge you to submerge yourself in it. www.bencrosland.co.uk - Bandcamp, Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes

Holly Daffurn

Feature

Merrymaker release musical tribute to two friends in aid of Primrose Hospice

A band has written a heartfelt song in memory of two friends which will raise money for **Primrose Hospice**. **Merrymaker's** latest single *Evergreen* will raise money for the hospice, based in St Godwalds Road, Bromsgrove, as well as bereavement charity **Edward's Trust**.

Dan Sealey and **Adam Barry** said they were moved to write the song and support the hospice following the deaths of their friends **Ona Haynes** and **Aidan Keane**.

Dan, formerly of **Ocean Colour Scene**, explained that Ona had been supported by the hospice before she died. He said: "We wanted to write a song for Ona and her family because they have always supported us. We recently shared it with them and they love it and have been really grateful and helpful. The inspiration behind the song was Ona because she was very much into nature and was quite Pagan by nature too. When we told the family we wanted to do a charity single they asked straightaway if we could do it for Primrose Hospice."

Adam added: "The family spoke so highly of everyone at Primrose. The song is quite fitting because her death did affect us. She was so young and such a great spirit and great support. It seemed like the natural thing to do really. The song resonates with anyone who has lost someone and they take their own meaning from the lyrics."

The pair, based in Astwood Bank, said they have received lovely feedback about the song and the video which was shot on **Bromyard Downs** by **Smart Aerial Services** and **Off The Film Media**.

Evergreen is the lead single taken from the band's EP which was



released earlier this month and is available to download at tinyurl.com/MerrymakerEvergreen as well as other digital platforms.

Watch the video online at: <https://youtu.be/2-cY1oD5dNE>.

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Nuns of the Tundra

2018 could be described as something a defining year for local band **Nuns Of The Tundra**, the band have moved from strength to strength, releasing a number of critically acclaimed singles whilst triumphantly marching across the county (and beyond) with a series of high profile slots along the way, including an opening slot on the mainstage of **Lakefest**. With a brand new single, the filthy fantastic, *Pray For U, Slay For You*, I thought I'd catch up with Nuns to see what it's all about and what they've got planned for the rest of the year.



Tell us about the origins of the new single *Pray For U, Slay For U*? Was it lyrics or music first?

It's usually a riff or a phrase or a drumbeat that inspires us first, then we write a song around that! So with Pray, the lyrics actually came about a year after the music, I usually pretty much just scat until I have a rhythm for the lyrics and fill in the blanks later

Where does song's dirty riff originate?

I was messing around with this ridiculously fuzzy pedal in my bedroom, one of my favourite kind of guitar licks is one that bounces around the bottom string like my hands had some uppers and can't sit still. So it was just from messing around really! Most things I write are made that way to be fair.

What inspired the lyrics of *Pray For U*?

I couldn't really think of lyrics for this one for a while, I don't really like getting political or anything like that, mostly like to keep



it open to interpretation. With Pray I think the world was really getting on top of me, you know when it feels like everything's truly screwed, like the climate, the politics, the destructive mindsets of a lot of people. So it's about that feeling of impending doom really, and doing whatever we can to stop it, even though it does feel pretty late in the game. We're all guilty kind of thing. But it's more fun than that, I promise.

I'd say the track is something of a departure for the band, how do you think the song compares to your previous releases?

Yeah for us it's really left field and I can't wait to introduce it to everyone, play it at our upcoming gigs! I'd say the biggest difference between the new and the old is our approach to making the songs interesting. Our previous releases are definitely of the mindset that if we have anything that makes us excited, it's going in the song, and through that they're all full of little events throughout. Our approach differed this time in that we went for a super stripped back approach. With everything we wanted in a song we'd ask why we wanted it, why it should make the cut, does it disrupt the song as a whole. So it's definitely on the other end of the songwriting spectrum for us. It's also super beat centric as apposed to guitar oriented.

What's next for Nuns Of The Tundra?

We've got 3 headline gigs to polish off the year, playing at the Marris Bar, the 02 Institute in Birmingham and the Louisiana in Bristol. And we're back in the studio following up Pray with two more songs, probably as you're reading this!

That aforementioned dense, fuzz driven guitar sets the band's stall. Creating a dark, yet seductive swagger before the pulsating, pounded drums and throbbing bass propel the song across the dance floor to the mic stand of Troy Tittley. He launches into his most impassioned lead to date, as the band lurch and contort towards the deliciously potent choral hook and groove-laden mid section. Dancing an imaginary line between the likes of Tame Impala and the swampy desert tones of Josh Homme.

Pray For U... is one of those songs that makes you want to scream in defiance, grab your brother and head for the floor. Because if the world is going down in flames at least we now have a damn good soundtrack to send us all on our way, dystopia has never sounded so inviting.

Nuns Of The Tundra can be seen live at:

Academy, Birmingham 7th Dec

The Marris Bar, Worcester 9th Dec

Louisiana, Bristol 11th Dec

www.nunsofthetundra.com www.facebook.com/nunsofthetundra

Nuns Of The Tundra Pray For U, Slay For U

Nuns Of The Tundra's latest single *Pray For You, Slay For U* may have taken some time to gestate and perfect, having changed and warped whilst in the pipeline, but now having been allowed free from it's shackles, the track could see the band rich a new plateau. The local four-piece take all the best elements of their previous releases, shake them up, strip them down and add an infectious, self propelled rhythmic groove before sewing in a thick, filthy fuzz ridden riff, that could 'halt a herd of elephants' in their tracks, to create a monstrous track of monolithic proportions.



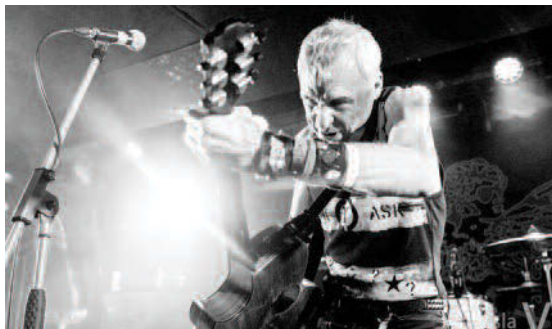
TV Smith

The Humdrum Express, Unpunk't The Marr's Bar, Worcester | Sat 19th Jan 2019

After more than 40 years of relentless gigging, punk rock troubadour **TV Smith** plays his first ever show in Worcester!

As former front man with **The Adverts**, he enjoyed chart success in the late 1970s with hits such as *Gary Gilmore's Eyes*, *Bored Teenagers*, *One Chord Wonders* and *No Time To Be 21*.

Long established as a solo artist and regarded as one of punk's greatest lyricists, TV has since released a hugely impressive 17 studio albums. The most recent, *Land Of The Overdose*, provides further evidence of his song writing prowess and modern day relevance. A typical TV Smith gig mixes new songs and old favourites with requests and surprises.



Support comes from **The Humdrum Express** (full band) and **Unpunk't**. With seven different singles having been championed by BBC 6Music, The Humdrum Express (singer/songwriter **Ian Passey**) recently put together an exciting band for a selection of dates. The line up (featuring **Andrew Boswell**, **Carl Bayliss** and

Chris Taylor-Ashcroft) create a buoyant blend of swirling indie clatter as a backdrop the cutting, observational Humdrum wit.

Unpunk't are the intriguing side project of **Dodgy's Nigel Clark** and **Skewwhiff's Mark Hogan**. Having already starred at last summer's **Rebellion Festival**, the dynamic duo will be tearing through a selection of early punk classics.

Saturday 19th Jan 2019

TVSMITH

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The Johnny Cash Roadshow Brings Man in Black's Legacy To Life

Johnny Cash Roadshow is a show not to be missed by avid fans or the casual listener - it's the only show to be endorsed by the CASH family!

This new year prepare for a musical and emotional rollercoaster, unrivalled by any other that truly celebrates the career of a music legend, Johnny Cash.

This is the UK and Europe's most recognised celebration of Cash's music, with respected singer/songwriter **Clive John**, re-creating with astounding accuracy and truly capturing the essence



of what it was like to be at a real Cash show! Also featuring **Amanda Stone** as 'June Carter' and the 'Roadshow Horns' all aspects of Cash's life are covered with impeccable taste.

The show takes the audience from the 1950's right up to 2002 and all the stops in between. All the greatest hits are included, along with songs from the latest five decades of the Man in Black's career. All this accompanied by emotive and evocative screen images.

The show will be rolling in to Atrix in Bromsgrove on January 19th and The Forum Theatre in Malvern on January 25th.

Get you tickets via the website: www.johnnycashroadshow.com

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[Spunge]

Birmingham, Institute | 9th Dec '18

UK Ska-punk legends **[SPUNGE]** are back with their second new single 'Get Out', which follows on from October's release of 'Liar', through the bands own label, **Dent All Records**. The duo of singles are the bands first new material since 2014's 'Hang On?' album and come ahead of a run of UK tour dates through late November and December.

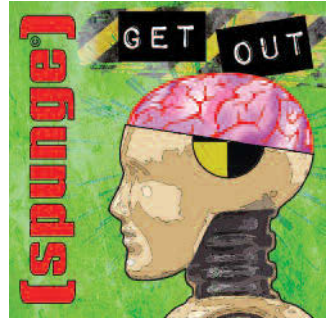


Joe Singh: SnapRockandPop

Having formed in 1994, **[SPUNGE]** have released 8 studio albums over the years, hitting the album and singles charts several times along the way. Still regularly touring, the band continue to fill venues and festival stages throughout the UK. This summer's festival season culminated with an at-capacity headline slot on 'The Skankin' Stage at **Boomtown**.

'Get Out' was written following a near-fatal car accident which involved both frontman **Alex Copeland** and bassist **Chris 'Jarv' Murphy**, who were traveling to the airport together, on route to perform at a festival in Guernsey this June. The pair were lucky to come out of the incident alive, which saw their car pushed under and dragged along by a lorry on the M42 motorway.

"'Get Out' is a message of positivity" states Copeland. "A lot of the time the only thing standing in the way of you and what you deserve is yourself. Life is short, enjoy it. That was cemented as fact to me after Jarv and I were in the car crash. I like to think I always had a similar outlook on life... But it wasn't until it was that close to being over that I really started believing it completely."



The first gig of the tour at Cheltenham's, Frog And Fiddle sold out and the next midlands date is last on the tour - 9th Dec at Birmingham, Institute.

Speaking about the live dates, Copeland continued, "We go back on the road soon, doing what we love to do the most—play shows. We've been busy writing new material this year and apart from the odd gigs and festivals, we've not really done much live this year. We can't wait to get back on tour—drinking, playing, trying out some new tunes and having a laugh, in that order."

Beth Rowley

The Marrs Bar | Thursday 7th Feb

I was rather surprised, and very pleased to see **Beth Rowley** listing **The Marrs Bar** in her February tour, following an evening at **Birmingham Symphony Hall**, a bit of a contrast, but I'm not complaining. I can only poke and provoke you all into checking out the beautiful music of *Gota Fria*. Released June, its an absolutely stunning album and Beth adds a little more magic playing live, making this event unmissable. Some 10 years back you would have heard her songs from *Little Dreamer* aired regularly on BBC Radio 2 shows. Beth then stepped back into the shadows for far too long, before before conjuring up this, almost mystical collection of songs.



Book your tickets, expect to be spellbound, and take home the music, it will lift a dreary February.

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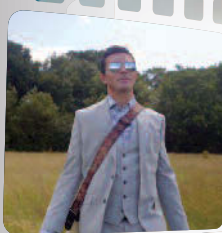
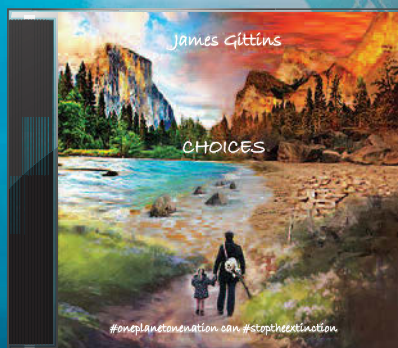
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Reflecting on The Ring

Between March - October 2018 over 228 days **The Ring**, a major new arts project, sent ripples through the waterways of



Worcestershire. Inspired by the region's canals and rivers, over spring and summer, thousands of people engaged with fresh and



exciting artworks created by local and internationally recognised artists. By commissioning 7 high-profile artists, musicians and poets The Ring created a specially commissioned programme, which featured 23 arts activities, events, films and art installations, all revealing the hidden stories of the River Severn, Worcester & Birmingham Canal and Droitwich Canals.



The Ring was delivered by a passionate team in collaboration with the **Canal & River Trust** - the charity that cares for the nation's waterways - and has seen the works produced in response to the 21 miles of waterways encircling Droitwich and Worcester.

With the project increasing the number of visitors to the local waterways by 25%, The Ring also providing a huge boost for Worcestershire's cultural scene, having an impact on tourism and the local economy. Over a hundred 100 artists and performers from Worcestershire and surrounding areas were employed during



the course of the 340 days. The project also provided opportunities for more than 4500 people to take part in more than 40 public activities and workshops as well as working with over 100 local volunteers. The Ring reached a huge audience via their social media sites and website, clocking thousands of hits during the programme.



Artists and performers from Worcestershire formed part of The Ring, as well as commissions for several renowned international (and one local) artists who all created work inspired by the waterways. These included:

Rich White: Occupation, (Mar - Sept) Bristol-based sculptor Rich White took up residence on the famous Diglis Island, Worcester.

Heather Wastie: The Muck and Shovel Brigade, Droitwich Canals and Online. (April) Former Worcestershire Poet Laureate, Heather Wastie produced a limited edition book.

Katy Beinart: Saltways, Gloucester Docks, Vines Park and Heritage Centre, Droitwich (May - Sept) Brighton-based interdisciplinary artist Katy Beinart lead a symbolic salt journey from Gloucester to Droitwich

NEON: Weogoran Pavilion, South Quay, Worcester (June). NEON (award-winning art, architecture and design practice) created a sequinned stage which brought together performances from renowned musicians and local performers.

Emily Speed: Hollowware, Museum of Royal Worcester and Diglis Canal Basin (Aug). Emily presented an intriguing, interactive performance drawn from her research at the museum.

Lucy McLauchlan: Opening the Floodgates, Oil Basin, Diglis, Worcester (Oct). Lucy, one of the UK's leading female street artists created a major 80-metre mural.

The Ring was a huge creative success for the county and hopefully 'opened the floodgates' for more vibrant and cutting edge projects to be delivered.

To look back on this fantastic event, go to: theringart.org.uk/

Top to bottom, left to right:

Images: 1 & 5: Image courtesy of Stefan Handy

Image 3: Image courtesy of Rich White

Images 2 & 4: Image courtesy of David Broadbent Photography

Annie's - New venue open in Worcester



A new music venue is opening in Worcester, located inside **Annie's** at The Courtyard.



Annie's approached **Worcester Music Festival**, **Slap Mag** as well as local promoters **Surprise Attacks**, **Faithful City Shows**, **Uncover** and **The Task in Hand**, inviting them to team up and host the venues first ever gig.

The launch event is set to take place on **Sunday 16th Dec** and will Worcester Music Festival's Christmas bash. Taking to the stage will be local artists, **Poppy WS**, **Institutes** and **The Connor Maher Quartet**.



Annie, who runs the venue, has a strong musical background. She's previously been involved in the music scene in Nottingham for the last 20 years alongside running **Annie's Burger Shack** in both Nottingham and Derby.

Now that the venue has a full PA system in place, they'll be looking to put on more frequent gigs in the New Year, with some exciting plans already in the pipeline.

Rockin' and Rollin' Back The Years At New Redditch Music Venue

A 'new' live music venue for Redditch aims to recreate the heady nights of the '70s when the place rocked to the sound of Frank Blake's Kaleidiscopes and live bands, such as the Cravats, Quartz and The Strangers.

Into The Valley at the **TRICO Stadium** (home of Redditch United FC) on Sallie Swan Street (off Bromsgrove Road) will open its doors to the public on **Friday 14th December**, with a classic rock themed night and live music from special guests **Led Hendrix**.

Originating from Bromsgrove in Worcestershire, Led Hendrix are the UK's only band to pay tribute to the music of two of rock music's greatest artists, the mighty Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix.

Always respectful to the "classics", Led Hendrix captures the sounds and style of the original artist with a modern twist, using period instruments to further enhance the sound and visual



experience. The band, who have been working musicians for many years, formed in 2015, and have built up a strong following around the West Midlands. 2019 will see the band touring venues around the UK. In September 2018, Led Hendrix performed in front of an international audience at the **John Bonham - A Celebration**

event in Redditch town centre, and went down a storm.

The initiative is being backed by a group of local music fans, lead by Jeff Watson. "The town centre is lacking a live music venue, and **Into The Valley** aims to plug that gap" says Jeff. "We want to become the place in Redditch to see local, regional and touring bands of all music genres."

Doors open from 7.30pm with band on stage from 8pm, free admission to Over 18s only. Happy Hour prices on all draught beers throughout the night.

Photo: Led Hendrix performing at John Bonham A Celebration in September 2018 by Nick Sharp photography

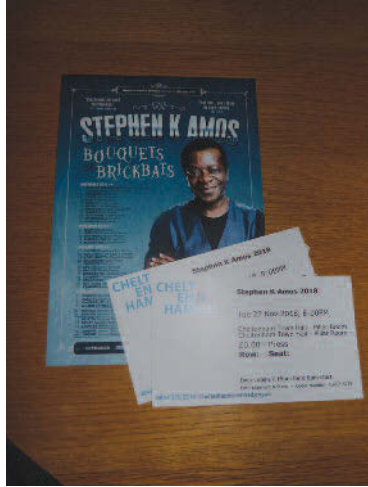
Stephen K. Amos

Cheltenham Town Hall | 27th Nov

Against a regency backdrop of marbled pillars, ornate coving & elaborate cornices the evening erupted through the speakers... "ladies and gentlemen, many thanks for coming out on a school night and let's be honest it's 'king cold out there tonight!'"

Stephen K. Amos needed extra support this evening. Firstly, from **Kacey**, a young comedian, who made much of his Christian beliefs, articulating that he is constantly questioned about his admission he doesn't believe in sex before marriage. (sic) Kacey was keen to explore the subject of a young man denying himself sex and at times his observations were virgin on the ridiculous...ta, dah!

Ridiculous, is the only way to describe **Stephen Amos** limping out on to the stage as a result of a sprained ankle – a willing audience, however, was keen to support him. I forget who wrote that "writers give the reader a context to think" and Amos is a veteran of both the stand-up circuit and allowing his audience to think: challenging stereotypes, ignorance, casual racism and bigotry. With an honesty that would shame a precocious four-year old. Accordingly, I felt the startled gent to the



right of me stiffen on more than one occasion and fold his arms like a tetchy teacher waiting for silence. Or was he just bored of the black man's perspective I wonder? Amos is, as ever, keen to explore all perspectives...who else would highlight that Prince Harry, "although, an honorary member of the black brotherhood by default, is from a broken and dysfunctional family living off the state?"

A sign of a good stand-up comedian is I think is gauged by your willingness to see the comedian again and again. The first time I witnessed Amos was in a small pub in Stroud – where he worked the audience and room like his career depended on it. He did the same on a gravity defying stage in Evesham. And once again in the Cheltenham Town Hall... and still, after 26 years, we find is still plying his trade: "making shit up." Encouraging his audience to laugh, stifle knowing chuckles, cover their open mouths in horror and stare back in uncomfortable silence...

Alarming, we caught our shuffling jester unflinchingly opening up about the last 18 months of his life. 18 months, where not only did his Mother pass away but he also buried his twin sister. As the silence descended, the gent next to me stiffened, his elbows at right angles, as we all involuntarily held our collective breathe. Amos of course, injected humour into this the most harrowing of plights... "as a child I cried for attention from my Mother and now I am still crying for her attention, look she's failed me..." I also forget who wrote: "For those that think about life it is a comedy, for those that feel, it is a tragedy."

Nick Burford



What's On?

at Huntingdon Hall

 <p>St Agnes Fountain 5th December - £18.50</p>	 <p>Harriet 7th December - £20</p>	 <p>Mike Sanchez and his Band 13th December - £18.50</p>
 <p>A Celtic Christmas with Calan 15th December - £16</p>	 <p>NEW AMEN CORNER MIKE D'ABBO 19th December - £18.50</p>	 <p>Jamie Knight & The Manuka Band 22nd December - £18</p>

Worcester live **BOX OFFICE: 01905 611 427**
www.worcesterlive.co.uk

Robert Newman - Total Eclipse of Descartes Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | Weds 17th Oct

I've always been a fan of **Rob**, now **Robert, Newman**, from his time as part of the **Mary Whitehouse Experience** to the ground breaking comedy is the new pop of **Newman and Baddiel**. Add to this my love of philosophy and I'm surely in for a great night!

Tonight's show is billed as; *"In a world gone crazy can philosophy help?"* Newman loosely touches upon this, but in the main the show is delivered as a quasi-lecture, interspersed with gags about pseudo-science, philosophers and twentieth century popular references, such as Morrissey, Paul Weller and Oasis.

Although Newman retains a youthful sense of mischief and uses his well-honed comedy talents to great affect this is not an out and out standup performance. There are some far deeper more ethereal subjects to be considered, looking at philosophical mind stretchers such as the tree in the forest and his warm and kind telling of the plight of Pavlov's dogs after being the subjects of the famous experiments. He also does some half decent impressions, portraying Pythagoras as James Cagney and has some very funny digs at Jean-Paul Sartre for living with his Mother until he was in his forties!

Newman has something of the highly likeable Professor about him, at times seeming older and wiser than his years. He tells us a little about himself, that he is adopted, a Cambridge University graduate, a London dweller without a car or television and father to a daughter whose school he is a Governor of. He considers our education system and discusses state versus private schooling giving us his take on the produce of both systems, preferring of



course the state provided free to all offering of which he is a product. We hear of the academic pranks he plays on his daughter by willfully misinforming her and convincing the poor girl to believe complete fallacies. Whether these tales are true we may never know but they are fine story telling that draw you in to a punch line that is delivered much later in the show with great skill.

One line which had a profound effect on me and will stay with me from the show is where Newman is considering how our civilization will be viewed in many years from now, he says, *"They thought they could have capitalism and a planet!"*

Robert Newman is a writer, broadcaster, comedian, actor and political activist who is warm, funny and charming in equal measure. The cozy yet authoritarian, it's a thing I have about churches, surroundings of Huntingdon hall make an excellent venue for this excellent show, brought to us by a real talent. The audience applause brings Robert forth for an encore that is sung and played on ukulele! Oh well you can't have it all. Catch him if you can.

Travis Blake

Deborah Bonham Band Huntingdon Hall, Worcester 3rd Nov

The Bonham name conjures up memories of John, and more latterly Jason, who have followed doggedly in those big footsteps. However, all the avid followers of Blues will be well aware of sister Deborah's, maybe, smaller footprint, its down to nature! She has toured extensively with her band in the UK, Europe, and the US. Indeed they are just back from supporting Paul Rogers and Jeff Beck in the US. Her band are **Pete Bullick** - guitar, **Ian Rowley** on bass, **Gerard Louis** on keyboards, and **Richard Newman** on drums.

The hall was comfortably full of Deborah's fans and the band sharing a bit of banter with them as they took stage, *'Shit Happens'* warms the air as Pete's chopping style, on his Les Paul, over accompanying keys, Deborah delivers in her wizard drapery.

The throbbing bass and drum rhythm bring in the country rock of *'Feel So Alive'*, Pete slides about whilst in the shadows and Gerard is working those ivories, but its the bass that drives it forward, as Deborah twists and twirls using the stage.

There's still plenty of rapport with the crowd in their boxed pews, before the country groove is ploughed a little deeper with *'Take Me Down'* with Pete on mandolin, as Deb goes looking for the water. The mandolin passes to bassist Ian for a rock fuelled, *'Fly'*, Pete's dirty guitar filling the air, as Deborah takes off for scorcher. She releases her vocal power for the slow bluesy soul of *'Hold On'*, with Pete switching to the semi acoustic resonator and slide. A stupendous power ballad to bring a break.

The searing, slow-burning *'How Do You Feel'* burnt into the halls devotees, Deborah at her best and Pete adding a scorching solo, over, crunching drums. The influences comes to the surface, with Bad Company's, *'Ready For Love'*, Pete is torturing the Gibson and Richard is structuring the rhythm scaffold beautifully.



The second set builds on the nights work, the whole hall moving with the music, feet tap, heads bob, all galvanised to the groove, as the band seem to strengthen with each song. Another scorching, slow burning blues, and its a cracker, as Deborah gives her soul to *'No Angel'*, wringing out every essence of passion as the band do the biz, and open up with a guitar driven underscore, that breaks to the surface, before Pete ebbs away, then erupts into a solo, falling back for Deborah to pour her heart out, *'No Angel'* is a stunning centre piece in a gallery, full of colourful songs.

Close to the end and Deborah pleads and entices a man from the shadows of the audience, one **Julian Speroni**, a goalkeeper at Crystal Palace and it would appear, a fan of the rock guitar. He eased into the shaded side of the stage, accepting one of Pete's guitar's, all set for a nod to Led Zeppelin and *'Rock And Roll'*, been a long time, closed out an evening of blues rock, with the **Deborah Bonham Band**, Julian saving the metaphorical penalty, all to a standing ovation for a band with a strong following that is growing stronger with each chord change...

Graham Munn

Triple Header

Mark Morriss, Chris Helme & Nigel Clark

The Masr's Bar, Worcester | 18th Nov

Opening the evening was **Nigel Clark**, front man of band **Dodgy**, a relatively local gig for the former chart icon, who has continued to perform as an established solo artist.

The night was off to a brilliant start. Nigel took us on historical, lyrical tour. "So Let Me Go Far" from the 1994 *Homegrown* album



was first up, easing the gathered crowd into an evening of nostalgic, melodic memories. "What are we fighting for", a tune from 2016 still held all the charm of the early Dodgy songs we know and love. Nigels vocals throughout his set came across with rustic and husky tones, showing an evolution of talent from years of performing. At ease with a guitar, Nigel drew interaction from the crowd involving us in a sing song about Willie Nelson. A more delicate performance with "Only a Heartbeat" led into a cover of a song by The Jam- *In the City*, which drew an exclamation of "Amazing" from the person stood behind me. Encouraging the crowd to move forward by joking it was in case of a fire, the dance floor in front of the stage filled up. "Staying out for the Summer" was an inevitable inclusion on the set list and got everyone on their feet and singing along. A Tom Waits cover and a funky song with a hip hop backing track took us up to the set finale of top ten hit "Good Enough" which was warmly received and sang along to, until the tempo was changed up and the crowds vocal performance was compared to a Christmas Carol service as Nigel let us sing out the chorus without him. A true entertainer with a warm personality, Nigels set was a winner.

Next on the set list, and describing himself as the meat in a Britpop sandwich that night, was **Mark Morriss**, lead singer and song writer in **The Bluetones**. Opening his set with a solo song, "Low Company", Mark seduced us with his silky vocals. proving that the indie years certainly did produce some extremely talented vocalists. In between songs, Mark also proved to be quite the comedian, with witty comments about the sales of The Bluetones



songs he'd thrown into his set. First of those was *Never Going Nowhere* which he jested was a hit record 15 years ago, reaching number 40! Following a couple more songs, and a broken guitar string, Mark had to switch to Nigels guitar to complete his set, which become a running joke throughout the evening. True professional, he'd carried on through *Cut Some Rug* and proved he wasn't one to take himself too seriously which made him a huge hit with the crowd, especially with the references to his questionable moustache! His performance of "Bluetonic" was a highlight of mine that evening and the audience were singing along the melody behind the chorus which was wonderful to hear, a song that has stood the test of time and remained firmly etched on the hearts of the fans in the room. We were teased with *Slight Return*, arguably the most famous song by the band, before Mark went into an hilarious version of "Stay Another Day" by East 17 which told the tale of the comical demise of Brian Harvey and Daniella Westbrook. Mark ended his 10 track set with "If", another one that seemed to still be enjoyed as much as when our younger ears first heard it back in the 90s. Marks music is story telling with hints of sarcasm and irony, songs that resonated in my teenage years, but have stuck with me into my adult years as each song takes on a new meaning with lifes experiences.

Mark introduced the nights final artist, **Chris Helme** of **The Seahorses**, saying he had the whole Poldark thing going on with the dark flowing hair.



The Seahorses, for me, were one of the Britpop/indie revolutions most underrated bands. With only one album, *Do It Yourself*, in their discography, dating back to 1997, I feel they didn't have the chance to shine as much as they deserved to. However, with singer Chris now carrying the torch for the band with a series of triple header tour dates with Nigel and Mark, I've had the chance to fall in love with the music all over again. Opening with "Hello", Chris delivered 12 lyrically beautiful songs to tie the evening up wonderfully. A cover of "Ooh La La" by The Faces, sat perfectly amongst the songs we were being treated to, and "Boy in the Picture" was adored by the enthralled audience. The vocals we were hearing were warm and familiar, hardly varying from the original tracks from back in the day. Chris mentioned Paul Weller as a musical influence and this was clear to hear in "Moving On" which reminded me heavily of "Wild Wood". "Love is the Law" and "Blinded by the Sun" encouraged energetic singing from all in the venue before Chris ended with a solo jamming session which had us all joining in with "Eye of the Tiger" amongst other jems he threw in.

All three performers thoroughly entertained the Sunday crowd with music and comedy, more than we bargained for, but greatly appreciated and received. The three sets complimented each other, and one sat along side the next comfortably, offering a magical trio of musical pleasures.

Words: Kate Ford. Photography: Sarah Lissemore John

How to be a Stand-up Comic!

If you've always had a hankering for the stand-up comedy stage, but never quite had the bottle to do it, you're not alone! I hope when you've read what follows, it'll give you the extra push to give it a go, because there is simply no better feeling than making an audience laugh.

Stand-up is no longer about telling jokes (especially not other people's jokes!), it's a broad art form which is more about the individual personality of each act and their take on the world.

In this article, we'll look at the basics of gathering ideas together and writing a short set, next month's will contain tips on taking your material to the stage.

Remember, the audience wants to see what is unique about you, your take on the world around you. For this reason, it's often a good idea to avoid the obvious; everyone, even top comics, are bound to be doing stuff on the state of the world today and it's hard to find a fresh angle on some of the political shenanigans which have been going on.

Instead, start by thinking about the who you are, what's different about you, how others see you (geek, posh, camp, grumpy, whatever!). Next list your loves and hates; good comedy often comes from things we feel an emotional connection with, though to be honest it's the 'hates' that usually get the biggest laughs!

Write all this down and then start to exaggerate it, so if you're a bit OCD tidy, think what the extreme of that would be like, what would drive you mad if you shared a house, similarly what effect would it have on your housemates?

In a ten minute set, it's a good idea to think about 3 or 4 'chunks' of material on different topics, which can be developed into a few minutes each, if they link together that's fine, but it's not compulsory.

I never try to deconstruct comedy too much, but there are a few fundamentals that are worth considering. At this stage, let's look at the structure of a joke. Essentially you are leading the audience down a particular path (the set-up), but before you get to the end, you take a quick left turn (the punch line) and it is the surprise of their expectations not being met which is funny.

Theo's Comedy Skool runs as 5 weekly workshops at **Artrix** in Bromsgrove from Monday February 25th 2019. Contact the box office, or email comedytheo@hotmail.co.uk

Theo



Chloe Mogg

Chloe Mogg is a singer songwriter/multi instrumentalist from Stourport on Severn and is currently a part of the awesome music scene in the West Midlands. The past two years have been amazing for her. Supporting Jon Gomm, Nick Harper, releasing her first acoustic EP.

She is currently a solo artist and recording her first album due for release end of 2019. Not content with that, she is recruiting musicians to put her own band together! I have all the members I need so far, apart from one...I need a drummer! The band will primarily be a trio, with additional session musicians (keys/strings) coming and going for each gig booked in.

Chloe said "My biggest inspirations are Jeff Buckley, Nick Harper, Wolf Alice, Frank Zappa, Marika Hackman, Alanis Morissette, Esperanza Spalding to name a few. I'm influenced by A LOT of things and feel the best way to showcase that is with songwriting and performing. The genre of my music is hard to put down onto paper, so long story short; think Alternative Rock, Progressive Folk & Grunge.

She added "I'm looking for either a dependable session or a permanent drummer of any kind, who can simply groove and can gel well with my band. I'm heavily influenced by jazz funk music



(with bass being my main instrument) and love the grooves of Billy Cobham & Vinnie Colaiuta. Saying that, you don't need to be as technical as they are. If you're looking to join a band and anything I've said has tickled your fancy, or you want to know more, please get in touch with at chloemogg@gmail.com or on Facebook and we can go from there."

Chloe's talents don't end there, she also writes reviews for SLAP magazine, hosts open mic nights. That's all besides playing roughly 150 gigs a year!

Below are a few links to her social media sites so you can find out more about Chloe and her music.

<http://chloemogg.wixsite.com/chloemoggmusic>
<https://www.facebook.com/chloemoggmusic/>
<https://mobile.twitter.com/ChloeMogg>
 Instagram - @chloemogg

Stephen Dale Petit Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | 22nd Nov

Stephen Dale Petit is not a name that pops up in the local music scene regularly, yet he is a force to be reckoned with in contemporary, guitar fuelled blues today. A Californian, he is influenced by King's, BB and Freddie. He has 4 albums available and currently has another one on the way. Accordingly, he is currently touring, backed ably with his young, talented band: drummer **Casper Miles**, and bassist, **Sophie Lord**, aka 'Cat Woman'. Dressed in her trademark black cat-suit and spangly ankle boots - she has yet to adopt the velvet eared half mask - but you never know...

The 'Tinderbox' is struck, sparking a fire of wild rock from Stephen's semi-acoustic Gibson that was set to loud. All the while, the killer boots sparkle in the spotlights and sticks crashed into cymbal and drum. 'Soul Survivor' pumps out like a Remington shotgun, armed with hard punching lyrics and scattergun dirty guitar licks. Sophie thumps on her bass and Casper takes on a convincing impression of Ginger Baker, crossed with Keith Moon: hair flicking and bouncing as he pounds those skins and hats.

Stephen recounts seeing BBK as a young pretender, and asking to play with him on stage. 'Ending The End' - dedicated to BB King,

brought much string bending and a resultant tortured and weeping guitar. Changing to a beautiful red, special edition Gibson he brought the Mayall, McVie and Clapton classic- 'Stepping Out' - to life, simply sublime.

We're soon engulfed in the maelstrom of the second set, with fingers working the fret board like a pool typist. I recall the rumbling, thunderously heavy: 'Fall Of America,' which shook the building - dark satanic stuff for sure - you've gotta feel it inside.



The gold plated fittings and pick-ups of the Gibson caught the lights, as the band showcased some of the up-coming album. 'Sputnik Days' took off on a more mellow, ethereal flight of fancy, finding its way towards 'Zombie Train', a rocking blues number that bubbled like two teaspoons of Andrews Liver Salts.

Stephen Dale Petit and his brilliant young band, hark back to the days when a rock track would

take half a side of an album. Put it simply, the man can play a seriously mean guitar, at times making Uriah Heep sound like a Dickensian character. Thankfully, there was still time for an encore - the band basked in the options offered; oddly, 'Summertime Blues' hit the right note for this chilly evening, with its thumping rhythms and cutting guitar; Stephen, stretched and moulded the song, before bringing a sunny closure to a storming evening.

Graham Munn

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Music Sessions/Open Mics

Every Monday - Folk Night

Worley's, The Swan, Stourport

Every Monday night - Acoustic Night

The Rollin Hills Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

4th Mon - Singaround

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Last Tues - Folk Night

The Millers Arms, Pershore

First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles

Rose and Crown, Feckenham

First Tues - The Courtyard Open Mic Night

Cafe Bar, The Courtyard, Hereford

Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

First Tues - For 12-19 year olds 7pm

Pershore Library

Every other Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every Tue - Open Mic

The Firefly, Worcester

Every Tue - Plug and Play

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

3rd Tues - Acoustic Jam Night with Ian & Kevin Fuller

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Every Tues - Enzo's Open Mic

Great Malvern Hotel

Every Tue - Acoustic/Singaround (Folk, Blues, Country)

The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session

The Farriers Arms, Worcester

3rd Tues - Folk Evening

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

3rd Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

1st Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy

The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

Every Wednesday - Open mic

The Maverick, Stourbridge

Every Wednesday - No Poetry Open mic with Cheating Lights

The Garrison at the Grapes, Hereford

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround

The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every Wed - Swan Sessions - Open Mic

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Every Wednesday - Ukulele Session

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Fox & Hounds, Breden

Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions

The Crown, Colwall

2nd Wednesday Permission to speak - spoken word & poetry

Clap Trap The Venue, Stourbridge

2nd Wednesday Unplugged Night

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

First and third Wednesday - The Dragon Folk Club

The Dragon in The Tything, Worcester

Every Wednesday - Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Every Wed Music night - Andy Lindsay & Debbie Parry

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic

The Queens Head, Redditch

Last Wednesday Priest & The Beast Jam Night (No covers) 7pm

Clap Trap The Venue, Stourbridge

Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session

The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming

All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

Every Wed - Folk Jam Session

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night

Marrs Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gt

3rd Wed of Month - Celtic folk session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Last Wed - Under 18s open mic

Reet Petite, Leominster

Every Thursday - Open Mic

The Victory, Hereford

Every Thursday - Drumlove Adult Workshop 7.30pm

The Angel Centre, Worcester

Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

1st Thurs - Folk Session

Kempley Village Hall

1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club

Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Open Mic

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Every Thursday Open Mic

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

First Thurs - Open Mic

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

Every Thursday Open Mic Hosted by Polly Edwards & Ben Hall

The Old Pheasant - Worcester

Every Thursday Open Mic

The Eagle Vaults, Worcester

Every Thursday - Acoustic Folk Session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jam Night

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Every other Thursday, Open Mic

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Every Thursday - Spoken word 7-9pm

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

Every Thursday - Folk Session run by Bob Chance

Black Swan Muchdew Church, Hereford

3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session

The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

3rd Thur - Jam Session

Reet Petite, Leominster

2nd Thursday - Malvern Storytellers

The Great Malvern Hotel - £1.50. See malvernstorytellers.co.uk

Every 4th Thursday - Open mic night with Blue Street

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Every 4th Thursday - Session

New Inn, Malvern

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club (8.15pm)

Bishop Allenby Hall, St Stephen's Church, Worcester

Every Friday - Open mic 7-9pm

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

1st Fri - Acoustic Session

The Camp, Grimley

2nd Fri - Open mic

Reet Petite, Leominster

3rd Fri (usually) - Beginners/Improvers Session/Workshop

The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session

The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session

St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session

Three Kings, Hanly Castle

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

2nd Sat (3rd Sat in Feb) - Rushwick Folk Club

Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Sunday Acoustic Sunday at 7.30pm

The Wharf, Stourport

2nd & 4th Sundays Open Mic with Tom Doggett 6pm-9pm

Thatched Tavern, Honeybourne

Sunday Live Open Mic

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Every Sat - Disco

Ducker Bar & Beer Garden, Leominster

2nd Sun - Singaround Session

The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

Every Sun 8.30-Midnight - Open Session

Social Club, West Malvern

Every Sun Lazy Acoustic Afternoon with Liz Kirby 4pm

Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

Sunday Shenanigans Open Mic Night 7pm every Sunday

Clap Trap The Venue, Stourbridge

2nd Sun - Acoustic Session

The Hop Pole, Droitwich

Every other Sunday open mic hosted by Ruben Sebright 9pm

The Oil Basin, Worcester

Every other Sunday open mic hosted by Ruben Sebright 9pm

The Unicorn, Malvern

Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00

Lichfield Vaults

Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions

The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

1st & 3rd Sun - Singaround format Session

The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish

Pickled Plum, Pershore

2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Please let us know if any of the above are no longer running or if your regular event isn't listed

Saturday 01 December 2018

Kinstrife

The Plough Inn, Whitecross Road, Hereford

Jenny Darren & The Ladykillers, Haxan, Vajazzle, Elkapath
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Rockaway Record Fairs Record And Cd Fair, Open 10 -4pm
Ashcroft Church Hall Ashcroft Road, Cirencester

Ashley Hutchings

St James's Church Welland, Welland Malvern

Ruzz Guitar Blues Revue

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Tim Manning (Blind River Scare)

The Monkland Arms, Leominster

Delray Rockets

The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Jay & Eli

Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

The Third Space Launch Party: Poppy Ws

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Ceilidh With Threepenny Bit Caller Fee Lock

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Circe'S Diner

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Chris Hutchison

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Foyer Folk: Granny's Attic

Number 8, Pershore

Black September

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Andy And Tippo

The Eagle Inn, Ross On Wye

The Stylistics

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Petty Hegglers

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Pete Hyde & The Villiards

The Chestnut, Worcester

Sound Of The Festive Foal

Café René, Gloucester

Inbetween Days

The Queen Vic, Stroud

Ian Luther

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Nick Harper

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Napalm Death

The Mill, Digbeth

Vintage Inc.

Express Inn, Malvern

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Retreat, Ledbury

Abba - Swede Dreamz

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Coyote 80'S

Château Impney Hotel, Droitwich

Wounded Spirit, Har-Q, Oscars Blueprint

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Rattlesnake Jake

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

The Final 4

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Croome River Blues Band

The Royal Oak, Kinnersley Near Severn Stoke

Acoustic Afternoon

The Chester Tavern, Kidderminster

The Sons Of Eddie

Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge

Dan & King Rich

Red House Boutique, Stourbridge

John Etheridge, www.Yardbirdarts.Com

Fownhope New Memorial Hall, Herefordshire

Thunder Daze

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Upbeat Beaties

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Freefall

The King Teddy, Gloucester

Common People

Railway Inn, Studley

The Rocker Covers

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Small Doses

The Royal Oak, Alcester

Night Crawlers

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

The Intruders

The Alcester Inn, Alcester

Head Honcho

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Bryn Teeling

The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Daffrun

The Golden Cross, Hereford

Ray Cooper, Jennifer Reid

The Left Bank, Hereford

Just Charlotte

Little Lakes, Bewdley

Johnnys Golden Roadshow

The Goodrest, Worcester

John Etheridge

Fownhope Memorial Village Hall, Bewdley

Kinstrife

The Plough, Hereford

The Ron Jeremy Band

Aston Fields Sports & Social Club, Bromsgrove

Behind The Music: Tor Pingree, Chevy Chase Stole

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Skrood

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Claire Shaw

The Golden Fleece, Hereford

John Etheridge, Solo Guitar Show, www.Yardbirdarts.Com,

Fownhope New Memorial Hall, Herefordshire

Rock Choir (12:30pm)

Royal Porcelain Works, Worcester

Rubble

The Wobbly Brewing Co & Taphouse, Hereford

Reet Petite's 2nd Birthday With The Strays

Reet Petite, Leominster

Bad Spaniel

Imperial, Hereford

Conflicts

The Victory, Hereford

Chalky Martin

The Garibaldi, Worcester

Sunday 02 December 2018

Trafficker (4pm)

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Quadrophenia Live

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Three Ones With Joe Reeve As Elvis

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Ray Mytton Band (5:30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Drunken Dolly, Nick Parker And The False Alarms

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Makeitvisible

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Paul Chief O'neil

Red Lion, Evesham

The Unconventionals Acoustic

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The After Dark Band (5pm)

The Imperial, Worcester

Open Mic Afternoon (2pm)

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Passion

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Female Voices: Chloe Mogg, Ellisha Green, Lobelia & Redwood UK

Tower Of Song, Birmingham

BBC Music Introducing (1pm)

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Drifter

The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Reinis Young

The Left Bank, Hereford

Silc

Lickey End Social Club, Bromsgrove

Jake Abbott

Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

The Lost Chord

The Britannia Inn, Hereford

Jon Eselle

Albion House Club, Cheltenham

Monday 03 December 2018

Trevor Moss & Hannah-Lou Instore (5pm)
Badlands, Cheltenham

Wildhearts - Playing Earth Vs in Full
The Mill, Digbeth

Tuesday 04 December 2018

The Marian Consort
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Five Star Swing At Christmas
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 05 December 2018

Blondes With Beards
The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Jessica Rhodes
Café René, Gloucester

The Washboard Resonators
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Noot
The Maverick, Stourbridge

Tyler Massey Trio
The Plough, Worcester

St Agnes Fountain
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Mayor's Charity Christmas Concert: The Elgar Choral
Conducted By Piers Maxim
The Guildhall, Worcester

The Dragon Folk Club: Alan Courtney
The Dragon, Worcester

The Follicles
Tappeto Lounge, Kidderminster

Thursday 06 December 2018

999, Borrowed Time, The Liabilities
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Vo Fletcher & Trevor Steger
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Kate Rusby
Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Jim Mullen, Zoe Francis
Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Pink Floyd Night With James Hollingsworth
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Five Valleys Session
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Albino Tarantino
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Emilie Westcott Acoustic & Lycio 8pm
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

The Junction
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Stella Thomson
The Tank, Gloucester

Jazz Mosi
Baci Ristorante Italiano, Stourbridge

FCS: Skindread (Sold Out)
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Jay & Eli
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Le Freak
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

James Hollingsworth's Pink Floyd Night
The Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Boycott The Baptist, Clunge Destroyer, A Werewolf
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Jazz Thursdays - Cat Davis
Bolero Bar & Kitchen, Worcester

Robin Hood And The Revolving Peasants!
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Friday 07 December 2018

Madball, Fights & Fires, Dead Hands, Bar Fight
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Big Sister
The White Pheasant, Stanford, Worcester

Mute The Flute
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Last Man Standing
Sup And Chow, Cheltenham

Reflections
The Blue Bell, Upton Upon Severn

Fisher Stevens Tributeto Diamond And Elvis
Royal Oak, Much Marcle, Ledbury

Funky Junky Monkeys, The Hills Angels
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

The White Feather Collective
Elmslie House, Malvern

Lady Rose
Bluebell Inn, Malvern

The Bluesounds
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

The Strays, Mirages, Cupcake Diaz
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Loralie, Screech Bats
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Steve Herbert
The Eagle Inn, Ross On Wye

The Dirk Spangle Five
The Queen Vic, Stroud

Forty Blue Toes
Millers Arms, Pershore

Catfish
Café René, Gloucester

Killerstream
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Joey The Crow
Yew Tree, Peterstow, Ross On Wye

The Americas, As Mamas
Heroes, Worcester

AC30s
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

One Night Of Queen
Regal, Evesham

Transporters
Sadler's Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Big Ginge Blues Trio
Red Lion, Evesham

Jay & Eli
Red Hill Social Club, Worcester

Autumn
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Bon Jovi Experience
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Paul O' Neill
The Tank, Gloucester

Les Triaboliques
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

The Unconventionals
The Old Bank, Stourbridge

Vicky Elise
Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

The UB40 Experience
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Collective 43
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Alex Chapman - Acoustic Set
Saintbridge Sport Centre, Gloucester

The River Chickens
The Old Beams, Stourport-On-Severn

The Dylan Project
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Straight Aces
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Dan & King
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Chloe Mogg Live
The Dark Horse, Moseley

Two Dollar Salad
The Boathouse, Upton Upon Severn

The Reflections
The Bluebell, Upton Upon Severn

Harriet
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Loungetoad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Alcatraz
The Golden Cross, Hereford

Feeling It
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Touch Duo
No.3A, Bromsgrove

Black Sabbath Tribute: A Hard Road
Mammajammas, Hereford

Kerry Smyth
Hickory's Smokehouse, Worcester

5:15
Drummonds, Worcester

Abba Tribute
Farmhouse Inns (Bluebell Farm), Worcester

Saturday 08 December 2018

Uncle Jim

The Red Man, Kidderminster

Ital Sounds, Drumlove, Polly Edwards

Bodega, Worcester

Mackerel Sky

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Blues Brothers Soul Revue

THE CROSS KEYS INN, MALVERN

The White Feather Collective

Elmslie House, Malvern

Forest Of Fools

The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Way

The Unicorn, Malvern

Damon T

DEYA Brewing Company, Cheltenham

The Woottown Hillbillies

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Prodigy Tribute - Jilted Generation

The Iron Road, Pershore

John Dalton

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Michigan Avenue

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Hot Tubes

London Inn, Cheltenham

Festus Coxson, Solo Banton

Lansdown Hall & Gallery, Stroud

Aleighcia Scott

The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Lewis & Dav

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Blank Kanvas

The Chestnut, Worcester

Act Of The Risen, No Refunds, Chaos Experience

Seven Stars, Redditch

City Soul

Café René, Gloucester

Rainer

The Oast House, Redditch

Festive Acoustic Ceilidh

St. Swithun's Institute Hall, Worcester

Hennesea

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Black Heart Angels

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Mud Humper, Wretched World, Black Boxes

Firefly, Hereford

Polkadot Robot

The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Dexter

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Playback

The Cricketers, Worcester

Jersey Boys Tribute

Chateau Impney Hotel, Droitwich

Crazyhead

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Fascinating Aida's Liza Pulman Sings Streisand

Regal, Evesham

Jayne Peters Band

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Restless Dog

Evesham Health Services, Evesham

Pete Harrington

The Trumpet Inn, Evesham

The Gatecrashers

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Joe Elvis Tribute

Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

Moretallica (Metallica Tribute), London Black

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Modfathers

Baker Street, Gloucester

Mary-Jess

St Georges Church, Tuffley, Gloucester

The Lady & The Sax

The Old Beams, Stourport-On-Severn

Gordon Hendricks As Elvis

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Abba Reunion

Walls Club, Gloucester

Better Than We Look

The King Teddy, Gloucester

Black Rose

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

The Usual Suspects

The Pilot Inn, Gloucester

The Encore

Railway Inn, Studley

The Speedgums

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Common People

The Royal Oak, Alcester

Handel, Messiah – Hereford Choral Society

The Courtyard, Hereford

QCD

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Hot Climate

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Sarah Martyn Acoustic Duo

The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

The Searchers

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Neil Diamond Tribute

Treetops Pavilion, Bewdley

Jon Townley

HR's Sports Bar, Bewdley

Dan & King Rich

The Rising Sun, Bewdley

Ewan Pollock

The Goodrest, Worcester

Sing Like A Bloke Workshop With A Fistful Of Spookie

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

A Fistful Of Spookies

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Rubble

The Plough, Hereford

Mister Wolf

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Immy And The Boatman, Chloe Mogg, Maefield

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Alvin And The Angry Barrels, Last Tree Squad

Reet Petite, Leominster

2Tone Revue

The Queens Arms, Bromyard

Ya Ya Logic, Lost Cat

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Better Than We Look

The King Edward VII, Longlevens, Gloucester

Sunday 09 December 2018

Clive John Trio (4pm)

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Paul Keyes

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Les Triaboliques

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Clarksville Mountain Band (5:30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Vogwells

Littlevic, Stroud

Jay & Eli

The Morgan, Malvern

Uncover: Nuns Of The Tundra, The Good Water, Dead Dads

Club, The Jericho Racks

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Oil Basin Open Mic With Ruben 9pm

The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Stuart Davies

Red Lion, Evesham

Ellisha Green

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Lynne Hanson And The Good Intentions, Ellisha Green,

Ryan Sparrow

St Georges Hall, Bewdley

Will Killeen Band (5pm)

The Imperial, Worcester

Mmad Live

Angie S Bar, Gloucester

Don'T Stop Fleetwood Mac Tribute Duo

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Tyler & Vo

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Chloe Mogg

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

A Journey Around Europe

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Churchfitters Christmas Cracker

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

James Chatfield 2-4pm

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Tuesday 11 December 2018

Ruffnecks

The Red Man, Kidderminster

Nicola Clark

The Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Worcester Ukulele Club (2pm)

Dorothy Terry House, Redditch

The Trumpet Shall Sound

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Tenors Un Limited

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 12 December 2018

Nicola Clark

The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Melt

The Albion Club, Cheltenham

Los Gusanos

Café René, Gloucester

Buzzard

The Maverick, Stourbridge

Heathans, Liberty Artillery. Glitch

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Cara Dillon

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Powerhouse Gospel Choir

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Enrico Tomasso Hot Five, Enrico Tomasso - Trumpet, Keith Nichols - Piano, Tom 'Spats' Langham - Banjo/Guitar, Trevor Whiting - Reeds, Nick Ward - Drums, Ticket Only - Fish & Chips
Pershore Jazz Club, Pershore Town Football Club Function Room,

Thursday 13 December 2018

Will Killeen

The Plough, Worcester

Linda Tolchard

Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Osmonds

Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Bromsgrove Folk Club: Fairfield, The Salvation Army Band

Catshill Social Club, Bromsgrove

Hilife Allstars Trio West Feat. Kodjovi Kush

The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Bagelites

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Immy & The Boatman 8:30Pm

The Oil Basin Brewery, Worcester

Martyn Wyndham-Read

The Old Rec, Worcester

Chloë Elliot

The Outside Inn & Courtyard, Evesham

Starlite Campbell Band

The Iron Road, Pershore

Lewis Clark

The Tank, Gloucester

Maddy Sings

The Old Bank, Stourbridge

The Tenmours With Support From Chloe Mogg, Lula Reed

And Steve Lindsay Neale
The Night Owl, Birmingham

Le Freak

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Mike Sanchez And His Band

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Jazz Thursdays - Loz Ruston Trio

Bolero Bar & Kitchen, Worcester

The Follicles

The Follicles, Kidderminster

Friday 14 December 2018

The Orchard Band, Hannah Law

The Birch And Stock Folk Club, Kidderminster

Lenny James & The Gator Squad

The Queens Head, Wolverley

The Sunshine Band

Chester Road Sports And Social Club, Kidderminster

Ten Tombs, Penthouse Uk, Floorboards, All Better, Guitar O.D

2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Mark Walby

Sup And Chow, Cheltenham

The Strays

The Blue Bell, Upton Upon Severn

Fiddlers Two

The Nest, Ledbury

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Corduroy Kings

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Dodgy Connection

The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Doreen Doreen

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Loz Ruston Trio

Waylands Yard, Worcester

Lost Revellers

The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Dry Seamen

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Skrood

Millers Arms, Pershore

Natt Davis

The Fountain Inn, Stroud

Future Kings, Elessar

Café René, Gloucester

Classic Rock Themed Night With Live Music - Led Hendrix

Into The Valley At The TRICO Stadium, Redditch

Born In The 80s

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Noughties & Now Tribute Night

Château Impney Hotel, Droitwich

Macca, Adam Cross, Gaf Franks, Bobby Smith

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Live Wire - The AC/DC Show

Regal, Evesham

Gene Genie And The Lemon Squeezers

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lyé, Stourbridge

The Strangers

Red Lion, Evesham

Melvin Hancox Band

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

James Harriman

The Tank, Gloucester

The Usual Suspects

The Maverick, Stourbridge

Carnival Records Pop Quiz

Malvern Cube, Malvern

2 Tone Revue

Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

Kidderminster College Rock And Roll Christmas Show

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Dreadzone

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Arcadia Roots

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Unconventionals

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Bad Spaniel

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Abba Tribute Night

Treetops Pavilion, Bewdley

T.Rextasy

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Jay & Eli

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

R.P.Mcmurphy Band

The Golden Cross, Hereford

Worcestershire Jazz Orchester

Lickey End Social Club, Bromsgrove

Festive Museum After Hours: Grviii - Men in Harmony 5:30pm

The Guildhall, Worcester

Jake & Kira

Swan Fairfield, Bromsgrove

Mister Wolf

The Lamplighter, Stratford Upon Avon

Toby

The Bridge, Worcester

Chloe Chadwick

The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Mitzy

Sixty Degrees, Bromsgrove

Folk In The Foyer: Dan Walsh And Alistair Anderson

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Coda Love

The Bluebell, Malvern

The Raintrees

The Wheatsheaf, Worcester

Bon Jovi Tribute Band

Land Oak, Kidderminster

Junction 7

Drummonds, Worcester

Gavin Miller

Veeno, Kidderminster

Saturday 15 December 2018

The Institutions

New Inn, Pershore

Cheshire Brooks Duo

Sup And Chow, Cheltenham

Bryn Thomas

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Obscure

The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

In Evolution

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Johnny Coppin

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Beyond The Barricade

Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Cantaloop

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Bomba Rock

Express Inn, Malvern

Sax Appeal

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Ishmael Ensemble

Brunel Goods Shed, Stroud

Global Beats

Star Anise Arts Cafe, Stroud

The Uproars, Rudesix

The Queens Head, Redditch

U2 V Simple Minds

The Oast House, Redditch

Built For Comfort

The Chestnut, Worcester

Hannah Johnson

Alestones, Redditch

The After Dark Band

Woodland Cottage, Redditch

John Mustoe

Café René, Gloucester

German Oompah Band

Redditch Entaco Cricket Club, Redditch

Ray Mitton Band

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Of Kings And Captains

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Essential 80s

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Jay & Eli

The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Macca, Adam Cross, Gaf Franks, Bobby Smith

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

London Calling Tribute To The Clash, Borrowed Time

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Liquor And Poker

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Supersonic 70s Christmas Show

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Witcher

The Unicorn, Malvern

Abba Tribute Night

Amber, Evesham

Wheel Sea

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Whole Lotta Led

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

The Lady And The Sax

St Georges Hall, Bewdley

Motorheadache (Motörhead Tribute) + Soul Stripper (AC/DC)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Unconventionals

The Old Beams, Stourport-On-Severn

XL5

The King Teddy, Gloucester

Chalkys Mod Soul & Ska Show

Wagon Works Ground, Gloucester

Better Than We Look

The Pilot Inn, Gloucester

Over The Hill

Phoenix Cafe Bar, Gloucester

Signing Off - UB40 Tribute Band

Railway Inn, Studley

Moon Goose, Kish Mauve

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Hard Graft

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Little Dave

The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Fired Up

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Calan

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Way

Imperial, Hereford

Mike Skilbeck

The Goodrest, Worcester

Ex Stiff Little Fingers, Dead Beats

The Victory, Hereford

Sons Of Yoda

The Plough, Hereford

The Oxford Beatles

Parabola Arts Centre, Cheltenham

Paul King

The Golden Fleece, Hereford

Pete Harrington

Bromsgrove Unionist Club, Bromsgrove

Wolves And Renegades

The Grapes, Hereford

The Brethryn

The Wobbly Brewing Co & Taphouse, Hereford

Smax

Lyppard Grange, Worcester

Locked And Loaded

Reet Petite, Leominster

Anniversary All Dayer: As Mamas, Hipflask Virgins,

The Jericho Racks, 3Wod, Horror On The High Seas,

The Lightweights, Social Outcasts, + More Tba

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Better Than We Look

The Pilot Inn, Hardwicke, Gloucester

The Skastuds

Wolverley Social Club, Kidderminster

Born Jovi, Reckless A Tribute To Brian Adams

The Oak Apple, Worcester

Richard Ryan

The New Railway Bell, Kidderminster

Sunday 16 December 2018

Kidderminster Apocalypso A Go-Go

Outside Town Hall, Kidderminster

Dan & King Rich

The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Wmf Festival's Christmas Bash Supported By Slap Mag.

Surprise Attacks, Faithful City Shows, Uncover and The Task

in Hand To Launch A New Venue, The Connor Maher Quartet,

Institutes, Poppy Ws

Annie's At The Courtyard, Worcester

Maz Mitrenko Band (4pm)

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The No Good Nancy's & Friends Christmas Carols

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Westenders

The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Woo Town Hillbillies (5:30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Spitz

Red Lion, Evesham

Bretforton Silver Band

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

The Follicles

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Neil Ivison (5pm)

The Imperial, Worcester

Trevor 'Babajack' Steger

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Chloe Mogg

Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

Midnight Sun

The Cross Keys, Alcester

Drifter

The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Astaria String Quartet

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

John Kirkpatrick

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

The Ledbury Waytes (11Am)

The Firs, Lower Broadheath, Worcester

Kings Of The Quarter Mile

The Queen Elizabeth Inn, Elmley Castle

Simon Wallace

The Bell Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Monday 17 December 2018

Bev Pegg & Guests

Aggborough Suite, Hoo Rd, Kidderminster

Tuesday 18 December 2018

Gloucestershire Morris Men Mummies Play
The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Amy Roberts, Remi Harris, Simon Smith
Clows Top Victory Hall, DY14 9HP, Worcestershire

Andrew James
Arrow Mill Hotel, Alcester

Amy Roberts
Clows Top Victory Hall, Bewdley

Wednesday 19 December 2018

May Thrill
The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Masterworks Concert
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Shootin' The Crow
Café René, Gloucester

Fred M Promotions Presents, Everyone You Know + Local Supports, 7 Till 10.15
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Holly At Christmas
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Abba Arrival
The Courtyard, Hereford

New Amen Corner With Mike D'Abo
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Thursday 20 December 2018

Damon T, Mark Cole
Reet Petite, Leominster

Johnny Coppin All On A Winter's Night
The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Katy J Pearson
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Slade Uk
The Iron Road, Pershore

Michael Buble Experience
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Ruben Seabright Xmas Special 8:30Pm
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Junior Weeb Acoustic, Redwood, Vicki
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Belshazzar's Feast 'Two Wise Men' Christmas Tour, Paul Sartin, Paul Hutchinson,
Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore

Claire Boswell
The Royal Oak, Alcester

Le Freak
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Mark Walby
Imperial, Hereford

Jazz Thursdays - Kim Cypher
Bolero Bar & Kitchen, Worcester

The Follicles
La Petite Gare, Kidderminster

Tom Hill's 70S Jazz Funk Machine
Walter De Cantelupe Inn, Kempsey, Worcester

Friday 21 December 2018

Baast, Griz-O, Jpdl & Yogi, Anyta Francis, Jojo Danielle Dj Set: Eyez & Sleepa
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Splat The Rat
Sup And Chow, Cheltenham

Voodoo Blue
The Blue Bell, Upton Upon Severn

The Power Room
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

The Real Thing
The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Vital Sparks Carols
The Prince Albert, Stroud

My Design, Christmas Party Night
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Lost Dogs
The Old Oak Inn, Pershore

Mansell Davies
The Eagle Inn, Ross On Wye

Mumbo Jumbo
Mr Twitchetts Coffee, Stroud

Miss Ruby Red (2Pm)
Dorothy Terry House, Redditch

Lewis Leighton
The Fountain Inn, Stroud

Popes Of Chillitown
Café René, Gloucester

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Paul O'Neill
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Spacehoppers
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Delray Rockets
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Abba Tribute Night
Chateau Impney Hotel, Droitwich

Chimp On A Bike
The Wheatpieces, Tewkesbury

The Final Four
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Woo Town Hillbillies
Red Lion, Evesham

Facestrealers
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Liquid State, Zilch, Parson City
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Molly Anne
The Tank, Gloucester

Out Of The Shadows
British Legion, Stourbridge

Charlie Waterford
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Official Receivers
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Bad Medicine
The Mitre Oak, Stourport-On-Severn

Meg Shaw
Bottles, Worcester

The Follicles
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Christmas Ceilidh
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Nicholsons Premier Indiebritpop
The Alcester Inn, Alcester

Precious Metal
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Arcadia Roots, Plastic Scene
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

Bus Pass
The Golden Cross, Hereford

Just Charlotte
Horn And Trumpet, Bewdley

The Rubble
Imperial, Hereford

Old School Christmas Disco With Dj Ed Steel Fox
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

The GTs
The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Bomba Rock
Millfields & District Social Club, Bromsgrove

Black Heart Angels
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Mister Wolf
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Reflections
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Bromyard Wind Band
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

The Institutions
Drummonds, Worcester

Saturday 22 December 2018

Ambition Demolition, Chinese Burn, Hung Like Hanratty
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Journeyman
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Matt Bowen
New Inn, Pershore

Vintage Inc., Christmas Party Tickets From Venue
Seaborne Leisure, Kempsey Worcester

Answer Back
Sup And Chow, Cheltenham

Ivory Wave
Arts Workshop, Worcester

Monkey Ride
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Hennesea, Funky Junky Monkeys
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Without Flight
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Firefly Band
Somerset Arms, Cheltenham

The Wedding Band
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Ally Bennett
The Greatfield, Cheltenham

Surreal Panther
The Iron Road, Pershore

Make Mine A Double
The Bayshill, Cheltenham

Black Bullets, Vajazzel Dynamite
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Last Stand
Old Sticky Wicket, Redditch

Daisy Houlder
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Fireballs UK
The Chestnut, Worcester

Clive Montellier
Café René, Gloucester

The Beggars Badge
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Cracker's 88's
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Sad Dads
The Railway Inn, Newnham

The Delray Rockets
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Bandeoke With Polkadot Robot - Xmas Party Special!
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Treble Fours
The Cricketers, Worcester

Motown Tribute Night
Chateau Impney Hotel, Droitwich

Eastwood Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Texan Peacocks
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Witcher
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Prone 2 Madness
The Talbot, Belbroughton, Stourbridge

The Swamp Stomp String Band
The Tank, Gloucester

Paul Modley
Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

Dan & King Rich
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Fury
The Marris Bar, Worcester

2Tone Revue
Baker Street, Gloucester

Trashed!
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Dudettes
The Queens Head, Gloucester

Midnight Shift
The Old Beams, Stourport-On-Severn

The Filthy Casuals
The King Teddy, Gloucester

The Hush
The Pilot Inn, Gloucester

80'S Proof Mojo
The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

The Blues Brothers
The Boathouse, Upton Upon Severn

Hannah And Brian
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

XL5
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Jamie Knight & The Manuka Band
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Follicles
Horn And Trumpet, Bewdley

The Lost Chord
The Grapes, Hereford

The Rogues
Reet Petite, Leominster

Bratt
The Portobello, St Johns, Worcester

Wolfsbane
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Sunday 23 December 2018

Sadie Owen
Land Oak, Kidderminster

The Woo Town Hillbillies
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Whiskey River Boys
The Grape Vaults, Leominster

Two Blue Acoustic
The Swan, Malvern

Hump De Bump Acoustic (5:30Pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Fires That Divide
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Ed Sheeran Experience
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

FCS: Puffin, Sick Pins, Second Guesser, Alvin and the Angry Barrels
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Oil Basin Open Mic With Ruben 9Pm
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

TTP Acoustic
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Locked And Loaded (5Pm)
The Imperial, Worcester

Lazy Sunday With Paul J Rose. 4Pm Start
The Red Lion, Evesham

The Lady And The Sax
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Rat Pack
The Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford

Terry
Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

Monday 24 December 2018

The Ferretts
The Chestnut, Worcester

Hip Hopmas Eve With Dj Tunes & Dj Taboo
Café René, Gloucester

Toad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dante's Escape, Tom Lloyd
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Stiff Joints, The Humdrum Express, Eccles Breed
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

The Follicles
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

The Bones
The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Tuesday 25 December 2018

Johnny Cash Roadshow
Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Wednesday 26 December 2018

Guns Or Roses
The Iron Road, Pershore

Skaville With Dj Dirty Lyle
Café René, Gloucester

The Straight Aces
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

White Tyger
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Answer Back
The Outside Inn & Courtyard, Evesham

Discofeva
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

The Murmur
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Riccardo
The Pilot Inn, Gloucester

Ian Oliver
Phoenix Cafe Bar, Gloucester

Thursday 27 December 2018

Hired Guns
Café René, Gloucester

Dizzy Lizzy
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Pure Whitney Houston
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Ewan Pollock Acoustic 8:30Pm
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Loz Rabone
The Tank, Gloucester

Friday 28 December 2018

Still Crazy
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Sex Pistols Experience
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Joel Darkes
Sup And Chow, Cheltenham

Risky Galore
Café Rouge, Cheltenham

Mr Marko'S Outer Space Emporium, 3 Litre Capri
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Tina Jones
The Eagle Inn, Ross On Wye

Gravy Train
Millers Arms, Pershore

Dead Dog Cider
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Soul Strutters
Café René, Gloucester

The Delray Rockets
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Bebe And The Trojans
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Supreme Queen
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Dave Onions
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

7Side Little Big Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Josh Edkins
Red Lion, Evesham

Locked And Loaded Uk
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Jack Cooper
The Tank, Gloucester

Jibbafish
Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

Population 7, The Connor Maher Quartet, Ed Steelfox
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Lizzy Legacy
The Dick Whittington, Gloucester

Rubble
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Hump De Bump
The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Terry
The Bell Inn, St Johns, Worcester

The Woo Town Hillbillies
The Bell Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Chalky Martin
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Saturday 29 December 2018

Chicago Bytes
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

DNA
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Tequila Mockingbird
The Eagle Inn, Ross On Wye

Will Killeen Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

2Tone Revue
The Old Sticky Wicket, Redditch

Trev & Vo
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dance Conspiracy
Café René, Gloucester

Dan Donnelly
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Primetime Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Take The 5th (The Clash Tribute), The Miffs
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Yaya Logic, Abbey Road Poets
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

6Appeal Band
Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

The Hush
The Dick Whittington, Gloucester

Risky Galore
Churchdown Club, Gloucester

The Follicles
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Monkey Jam
The King Teddy, Gloucester

Dan Graham
The Pilot Inn, Gloucester

The Quad
The Royal Oak, Alcester

Two Push Charlie
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Witcher
The Trumpet Inn, Evesham

Gowst, Iran, Iran, The Worrisome Ankletrot
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Chinese Burn, The Lone Sharks
The Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Sunday 30 December 2018

The Lionel Richie Songbook
Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Vo Fletcher (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Lewis Creaven Band
Café René, Gloucester

The Delray Rockets
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

G&T Mix
Red Lion, Evesham

Meg Shaw
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Brendon O'brien
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Tequila Mockingbird
The Dick Whittington, Gloucester

Dan & King Rich
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Will Killeen
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Call Of The Kraken
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Monday 31 December 2018

Mark Walby
Sup And Chow, Cheltenham

Flatworld
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Rebels
The Bell Inn, Leominster

Ruben's New Year Special! 8:30pm til late
The Oil Basin Brewhouse

Discofeva
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Make Mine A Double
The Old Courthouse, Cheltenham

Vlatmo
The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham

The Delray Rockets
The Gun Tavern, Worcester

Giant And The Georges, The Loveless
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Marabooos
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Frazer Lepford
The Outside Inn & Courtyard, Evesham

Shades Of Grey
Red Lion, Evesham

The Liquor And Poker Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

The Unconventionals
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Jay And Eli (Ticket Only)
The Imperial, Worcester

Dan & King Rich
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Monkey Jam
Wotton Hall Social Club, Gloucester

The Beat Brothers
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Forty Blue Toes
The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Jibbafish
Bar Severn, Upton Upon Severn

Two Push Charlie
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

The Strays
The Golden Cross, Hereford

Just Charlotte
Horn And Trumpet, Bewdley

Blue Socks Ceilidh Band
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Bad Spaniel
The Wobbly Brewing Co & Taphouse, Hereford

New Years Eve with DJ Dan
Reet Petite, Leominster

The Straight Aces
Wolverley Social Club, Kidderminster

Arcadia Roots
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport On Severn

The Hill's Angels
Great Malvern Hotel

Wednesday 02 January 2019

Luke Philbrick
Café René, Gloucester

Thursday 03 January 2019

Jay & Eli
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport

Ellisha Green Acoustic 8:30pm
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Friday 04 January 2019

The Uplifter, John Street Ska Orchestra. Jssu Dub Project
Brunel Goods Shed, Stroud

Vintage Inc
Millers Arms, Pershore

Whiskey River Boys
Yew Tree, Peterstow, Ross On Wye

Rod & The Facez
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Jon Townley
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Rebel Heroes
Café René, Gloucester

The Take That Experience
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Damon T, Mark Cole
Tall Ships, Gloucester

The Rhythm Slingers
The Golden Cross, Hereford

Saturday 05 January 2019

Sounds Of Simon
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

Kevin Rhodes
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Usual Suspects
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Miss Chief & Mr Meaners (The Debbie Parry Band)
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Monsters Of Rock: Hi-On Maiden, Priest Unleashed, Wizards Of Oz
The Iron Road, Pershore

Shiraz, Supporting, Citylightz, Methods,
Birmingham O2 Academy 3, Birmingham

The Outcasts
The Chestnut, Worcester

Dave B
The Oast House, Redditch

The Essential Party Band
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Ozzy Birthday Jam, Ricky Brown
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Play It Again Sam
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

King Pleasure And The Biscuit Boys
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Shuhari Sound Collective
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Sunday 06 January 2019

Ralph Allin (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Ferrets (5pm)
The Imperial, Worcester

Jay & Eli
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport

Monday 07 January 2019

Kings Of The Hill
The Gardeners Arms, Tewkesbury

Wednesday 09 January 2019

Jan Vaisey & Ian Harvey
The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Ruzz Guitars Reveue
Café René, Gloucester

Thursday 10 January 2019

Poppy Ws Acoustic 8:30pm
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Friday 11 January 2019

Melvin Hancock Band
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Ben Cipolla + The Nouvelle House Band
Beaundesert Park School, Stroud

Jay & Eli
The Blue Bell, Ryall

Gin Annie
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Essential Party Band
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Benjamin Grosvenor
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Version
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

B-Sides
Café René, Gloucester

Zelkova String Quartet
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Vintage Inc.
Millers Arms, Pershore

Youth Music Showcase
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

The Leon Daye Band
The Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Mayors Of Toronto, Too Piste, I Can, I Cant
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Saturday 12 January 2019

The Outcasts
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Solomento
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Paul 'Chief' O' Neil
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Monkey Jam
Charlton Kings Social Club, Cheltenham

Foyer Folk: Colin Pitts
Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore

Hump De Bump
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Machine Rages On (Ratm Tribute), Liberty Artillery
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Kick Up The 80s
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Crying Wolf, Pretty Pistol
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Playback
The Cricketers, Worcester

Easy Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Quadrophenia Night
The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

The Usual Suspects
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Best Of Queen
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Polkadot Robot
The Red Man, Kidderminster

The London Swing Orchestra
The Roses, Tewkesbury

The Fordsons
The Globe, Hay On Wye

UB40 Tribute Night
Treetops Pavilion, Bewdley

Travelin' Man - The Ricky Nelson Rock & Roll Show
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Custard Connection
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

The Sultana
The Wobbly Brewing Co & Taphouse, Hereford

The Rotanas
Reet Petite, Leominster

Sunday 13 January 2019

Dan & King
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Andy Brotherton, Anders Olinder (Midday)
Smoko Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Jenny Hallam (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Groovyhead (5pm)
The Imperial, Worcester

The Simon & Garfunkel Story
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Paul Bridgwater & The Electric Blues Rebellion
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Monday 14 January 2019

Clark Tracey Quintet
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Wednesday 16 January 2019

Scott Gordon Band
Café René, Gloucester

Thursday 17 January 2019

Adrian Brendel & Alasdair Beatson
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Martyn Joseph
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Polly Edwards acoustic
The Oil Basin Brewhouse

Friday 18 January 2019

Ellie Jones & The Giants
The Queens Head, Wolverley

From The Jam
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Fastlove
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

The Charlton Blues Kings
Brewhouse & Kitchen, Cheltenham

AC/DC UK
The Iron Road, Pershore

Biffy Mcclyro (Biffy Clyro Tribute)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Festivals Experience
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Via Dolorosa, Whippasnappa
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Third Verse
The Red Lion, Evesham

Deftones Uk
Café René, Gloucester

Little Victories
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follicles
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Money For Nothing: Dire Straits Tribute
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Broken Bones Matilda, Duncan Mccorkindale
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Rock N Roll Era
The Courtyard, Hereford

Buddy Holly: A Legend Reborn
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Rob Challis
Veeno, Kidderminster

Saturday 19 January 2019

The Britpop Boys
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Bomba Rock
The Red Man, Kidderminster

The Bones
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Rocket Man
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Mel & Him
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Paul O'neil
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Monkey Jam
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Voodoo Stone
The Chestnut, Worcester

Tv Smith (Ex The Adverts), The Humdrum Express, Unpunk'T
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Ultra 90s
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Indyathe More You Know
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Delta 88
Saintbridge Sport Centre, Gloucester

The Johnny Cash Roadshow
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Johnny Cash Roadshow
Atrix, Bromsgrove

The 1210s
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Edwina Hayes
Brimfield Village Hall, Brimfield, Ludlow

Better Than We Look
Brockworth Rugby Club, Brockworth

Remi Harris & The Electric Beat Combo
Clows Top Victory Hall, Worcestershire

Paul Bridgewater & The Electric Blues Rebellion
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Sunday 20 January 2019

Dizzy Lizzy
Alestones, Redditch

Trevor Babajack Steger (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Sun Fire (5pm)
The Imperial, Worcester

The Follicles
Ye Olde Crown Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

Wednesday 23 January 2019

Glynn Martin
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Beaver & The Foghorns, Chaplin Shakes
Café René, Gloucester

Thursday 24 January 2019

Vo Fletcher
The Plough, Worcester

Alex Rainsford acoustic
The Oil Basin Brewhouse

The Lionel Richie Songbook
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

Rattle On The Stovepipe
The Old Rec, Worcester

Whitney - Queen Of The Night
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Friday 25 January 2019

Such Gold, Koji, Floorboards, Eleasar
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Bluze Box
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Vajazzle Dynamite, Hot Knife Club, Panic Switch
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Ruby Turner
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Whole Lotta Led: A World Class Tribute To Led Zeppelin
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

Skrood
Millers Arms, Pershore

XL5
The Chestnut, Worcester

Crowded Out (Crowded House Tribute)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Ultimate Coldplay
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Dolls, Last Safe Moment
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Gloucester Cajun & Zydeco Festival
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Soul Struters
Café René, Gloucester

Brendon O'brien
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Counterfeit Stones
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Johnny Cash Roadshow
Forum Theatre, Malvern

Paul Jones & Dave Kelly
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Saturday 26 January 2019

Dan & King Rich
Cookley Sports Club, Kidderminster

The Usual Suspects
The Cavalier, Kidderminster

Misha Dawn
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Common People
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Kitchen Island Band
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Wrong Jovi (Bon Jovi Tribute)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Killerstream
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Very Grimm Brothers, Sasscappella
St Peter'S Church, Malvern

Macca, Adam Cross, Gaf Franks, Bobby Smith
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Acoustic Afternoon
The Chester Tavern, Kidderminster

Better Than We Look
Baker Street, Gloucester

The Counterfeit Stones
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Jason And The Astronauts
The Globe, Hay On Wye

The Hey Yahs
The Courtyard, Hereford

Blobbie Williams
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Witcher
Millfields & District Social Club, Bromsgrove

The Jam Explosion
Kidderminster Harriers Social Club, Kidderminster

Better Than We Look
The Baker Street, Gloucester

Dennis Demille
Hogarths Stone Manor, Kidderminster

Sunday 27 January 2019

Claude Bourbon (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Just Adam
The Morgan, Malvern

Jamie Knight (5pm)
The Imperial, Worcester

The Boscobel Quartet
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Wednesday 30 January 2019

Damon T And Mark Cole
The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Buzzin' Hornets
Café Rene, Gloucester

Fairport Convention
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Creedence Clearwater Reimagined
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Thursday 31 January 2019

Random Hand, Popes Of Chillitown, Ready 5, Blood Uncle
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until 5th Jan Crafted for You. Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

Until 14th Jan Sue Purser Hope Creative Coverage Winter Exhibition. Chipping Norton Theatre Gallery

Until 2nd Worcester Victorian Fayre

Until 20th Mar - The Precious Clay: porcelain in contemporary art Museum of Royal Worcester

Until 26th Jan Worcester Society of Artists Annual exhibition. Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

1st Alternative Arts Market, Heroes Bar, Worcester

1st Dancefest performance at Tenbury Mistletoe Festival

1st Sparkle Market St Georges Annex, Kidderminster

1st & 2nd Etsy Made Local, Henry Sandon Hall, Worcester

4th Arts For Wellbeing: A Creative Community Showcase, The Courtyard Hereford

7th & 8th A Midsummer Nights Dream by Perfect Circle Youth Theatre, St Peters Church, Malvern

8th Christmas family arts & Crafts
St Swithun's Church Worcester 10am-3pm.

8th License to Rhyme Worcester Arts Workshop

8th & 9th Site Open Studios, Stroud, Gloucestershire

9th Bromsgrove Festival of Light

9th A World of Christmas Exhibition
St May's Church, Hanley Castle 12 - 5pm

11th Reach Christmas Craft Fair, Bewdley Cricket Club

11th Drink & Doodle, Paul Pry, Worcester

14th Museum after Hours. Worcester Museum & Art Gallery 5.30

Hopkins Hammond Band
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Liberty Artillery
The Oil Basin Brewhouse

Fun Lovin' Criminals
The Mill, Digbeth

Piano Man - The Music Of Billy Joel
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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14th It's A Wonderful Life, Artrix Bromsgrove

15th Bell tower Lights switch on, Evesham

15th & 16th Rachel Kay Hall exhibition, Worcester Brewing Co

22nd Family Christmas Crafts 11am Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

28th & 29th Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again Sing-a-Long
Artrix Bromsgrove

5th Jan until 3rd March Susan Birth, Mixed Media Exhibition.
Coach House Theatre, Malvern

7th - 10th. Shoplifters (15). The Courtyard Hereford

8 Jan - 3 Feb 5 Cubed: New Beginnings, Artrix Bromsgrove

9th - 11th Disobedience. Artrix Bromsgrove

14th, 16th, 17th The Wife. Artrix Bromsgrove

16th Circus of Horrors - Psycho Asylum, The Courtyard Hereford

22nd Ray Sturdy Talks: Vesta Tilley - A Victorian Light,
Henry Sandon Hall, Worcester

24th Three Counties Careers Fair, Three Counties Showground,
Malvern

26th The Children In the Moon, Henry Sandon Hall, 2pm

28th Utoya: 22 July & HSFC debate, The Courtyard Hereford

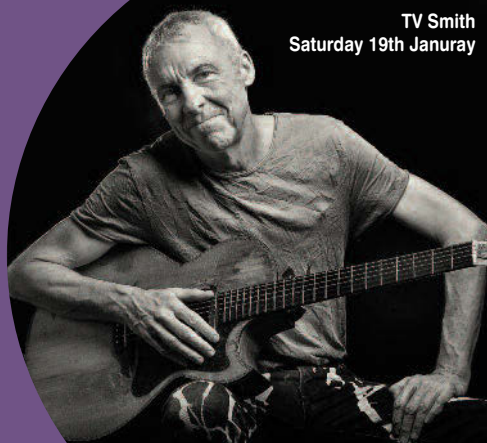
30th Jan Moving Pictures The Courtyard, Hereford

For Arts Events email Kate
at arts@slapmag.co.uk

THE MARRS BAR

DEC JAN 2018/19

TV Smith
Saturday 19th January



Sunday December 2

Drunken Dolly, Nick Parker & The False Alarms
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday December 6

FCS: Skindread

SOLD OUT

Friday December 7

The UB40 Experience

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday December 8

Moretallica (Metallica tribute), London Black
£7 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday December 9

Uncover: Nuns of the Tundra, The Good Water, Dead Dads Club, The Jericho Racks

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Thursday December 13

Heathans, Liberty Artillery, Glitch

£3 in advance £5 on the door

Friday December 14

Dreadzone

£19 in advance

Saturday December 15

**Motorheadache (Motörhead tribute)
+ Soul Stripper (AC/DC tribute)**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday 16th December,

In Evolution + Ruben Seabright

£4 in advance £6 on the door

Friday December 21

The Official Receivers

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday December 22

Fury

£7 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday December 23

**FCS: Puffin, Sick Pins, Second Guesser,
Alvin and The Angry Barrels**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday December 28

**Population 7, The Connor Maher Quartet,
Ed Steelfox**

£7 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday December 29

Take The 5th (The Clash tribute), The Miffs

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday January 11

Gin Annie

£6 in advance £8 on the door

Saturday January 12

**The Machine Rages On (RATM tribute),
Liberty Artillery**

£6 in advance £8 on the door

Friday January 18

Biffy McClyro (Biffy Clyro tribute)

£6 in advance £8 on the door

Saturday January 19

**TV Smith (ex The Adverts), The Humdrum
Express, Unpunk't**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday January 25

Crowded Out (Crowded House Tribute)

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday January 26

Wrong Jovi (Bon Jovi tribute)

£7.50 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday February 3

Uncover: Pink Diamond Revue, LegPuppy

£6 in advance £8 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night - FREE entry

Late Fridays & Saturdays - Midnight till 4am

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